Kelso retires early over scandal

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Admiral Frank Kelso announced Tuesday as had asked to retire early so the navy can finally close the case on a misconduct scandal. Adm. Kelso, the navy's top uniformed officer, announced he will retire April 30, two months earlier than scheduled, because he believed the Tailhook case was resolved and that he had the support of the Pentagon's top leaders. He announced his retirement amid allegations that he tried to cover up his knowledge of events at the 1991 Tailhook convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, of events at the 1991 randook convention in Las vegas, Nevada, where male aviators were accused of sexually harassing 80 women, including officers. "I had a responsibility to lead the navy through the process of changing the climate which allowed this incident to occur. Having done so, it is my intention to submit my request for retirement to a said he said he decided to retirement. a of April 30, 1994," Adm. Kelso said. He said he decided to resign on his own and had not been asked to do so hy Defence Secretary William Perry and Navy Secretary John Dalton. "I became the fightning rod for Tailhook," Adm. Kelso said in explaining his decision to resign to allow the navy to get beyond the Tailhook



Arafat plans Gulf reconciliation tour

TUNIS (R) - Yasser Arafat plans to visit several Gulf Arab states to repair ties damaged during the Gulf war over bis sympathy for Iraq, officials said on Tuesday. "There are contacts to arrange such visits at the right moment," Hakam Balawi, a Central Committee member of Fateh, told Reuters. He said Mr. Arafat was expected to visit the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman over the next weeks.

Volume 18 Number 5540

AMMAN WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1994, RAMADAN 6, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

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Spyring Menon Meno Martinum is day he has received appeals in tuning home from hundreds of Jewish setthe also under their seeking to leave their the occupied Gaza from spine in Part said he was not yet Strip. But said be was not yet willing to authorise compensanon for the settlers. "I don't want to help them at this stage," Mr. Rabin told the with heroin foreign affairs and defence committee, according to reones the meeting. "Whoever wants date i was queue. to leave can leave but if the York aupon . . government were to say it is mind with hour ready to give would further encourge leavready to give compensation, it Ministry said a ing, and I don't want to en-The drug was high courage this line."

U.S. moves towards Japan sanctions

WASHINGTON (AFP) -The United States took the first step towards imposing trade sanctions against Japan farmer on Tuesday, with a ruling that Japan had violated a 1989 agreement to allow U.S. access to Japan's cellular telephone market. U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor said he would announce possible trade sanctions within 30 days. (see page 7)

Egypt assails AFP

CAIRO (R) - The Egyptian povernment attacked the french news agency Agence France Presse (AFP) on Tuesday but later dropped a threat no take legal action over its of the New Zea. aporting on an explosion in the Nile Delta. A ministry e Australian quo murching orders. statement accused AFP of rmed with a केट्ट maliciously publishing lies and to give the impression that cretion being that to give the impression that the fort a fallour, the Ars. the fort of the first the first the fort of the first the firs empth retreate v real force." The foreign press Wilson with in general have given wide coverage to statements from Al Gamaz Al Islamiyah advising tourists and foreign investors to leave the country for their own safety. The ministry statement denounced AFP for using the title Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah instead of "terroirst groups," saying this suggested the security forces were waging war on Islam.

Prosecutors wrap up **U.S. blast case**

NEW YORK (AFP) - Conduding a five-month trial, a prosecutor said a mountain of evidence shows beyond doubt that four suspects plotted the February 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre. "They left death, destruction, chaos and horror in their wake," assistant U.S. Attorcollections in Eg. icy Henry Depippo said Monday in his closing argument. They also left some very important things, some very im-portant clues." The prosecutor was to resume his argument Tuesday and defence attorneys were to make their arguments ifterward in the federal conpiracy trial of Ahmad Ajaj, Mohammad Salameb, Nidal Ayyad and Mahmoud Ahu

Russia, Britain to retarget missiles

MOSCOW (AFP) - The leadthere's a pourse. ers of Russia and Britain more can be don't bould be takened and a statement here Tuesday agreeing to retarget their Writegic nuclear missiles away from each other's country, lar-Tass said. The declaration was signed at the Kremlin by ian President Boris Yeltis not the class. the lightning to a and British Prime Minister John Major a month after the United States and Russia ry to maintain be rigoed a similar pledge.

of a patient their **Accused Florida seriai** tiller pleads guilty

ubile spanage - Zilg. Pana dega - Mer GAINESVILLE (R) - Acright thing, Sie Hospital Pict Cused serial killer Danny Rolling pleaded guilty in a Florida court Tuesday to the stabbing in the Pattin^{t lik}. here the half half half half here ha animities has med hard the state of jury selection for his trial on charges of the Teres have a stabbing and mutilation deaths of the students, told the judge. There are some things you just can't run feet. there are some t just can't run from."

Jordan, PLO make major headway in streamlining coordination committees

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with Agency dispatches

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ended their first day of meenings here Tuesday optimistic that they have laid a new ground for coordinating strategy towards Middle East peace negotiations and eloser ties between the Kingdom and envisaged Palestinian self-rule

"Today's meeting was fruitful and useful to the furthest extent for there was a high degree of agreement on a lot of issues," Information Minister Jawad Anani told reporters.

The head of the PLO's information department, Yasser Abed Rahbo, also speaking to reporters at the Foreign Ministry, said the two sides were able to "overcome all the problems on the agenda,"

"I believe that this meeting was conducted in a practical spirit which will enable us to take marked steps forward whether on the Jordanian-Palestinian level or in what touches the two sides' position towards the negotiating process," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) and Israel

neared agreement Tuesday on

setting up a Palestinian police

force in Gaza and Jericho, a

ducing differences over how

the Palestinian police will be

structured and armed, and I

bope that an accord will be

initialled in the next 24 hours,"

PLO negotiator Hassan Asfour

drafting a document on the

force to be deployed in the

self-rule areas of the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank town

of Jericho, Mr. Asfour said

during talks in the Egyptian

Differences remain over

"how large the force should be

and how many weapons it should have," Mr. Asfour

The PLO wants a force of

9,000 police for Gaza and

Jericho, while Israel has set a

ceiling of 6,000, including the

Red Sea resort of Taba.

Israel and the PLO started

We have succeeded in re-

negotiator said.

The neeting of the Jordan-PLO Higher Political Committee, which supervises seven teams discussing issues ranging from security and borders to Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees, came six days after Israel and the PLO signed a

security pact in Cairo.

His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat agreed to convene the meetings during brief talks in Amman last week. At its last meeting in January, the joint committee endorsed an economic accord elearing the way for Jordanian hanks to reopen in the West Bank for the first time since the 1967 war.

The steps agreed Tuesday, to include a schedule of meetings of the joint committees, would allow coordination of strategy as Middle East peace talks launehed in October 1991 enter a more serious stage, the two sides said.

The new effort to cooperate followed last week's Israeli-PLO agreement on security in the proposed self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho which brought an Israeli troop withdrawal closer. It also came after Jordan complained of a lack of consultation.

Israel, PLO near accord

civil defence and intelligence

Israel's Police Minister

Moshe Shahal said bere that

the Palestinians would be

allowed to use the same light

weapons and armoured cars as

their Israel counterparts, but a

request for tanks was rejected.

boats to patrol parts of the

Mediterranean coast allotted

to it under last week's Cairo

accord on the main security

issues which have delayed

launching self-rule by two

chief Israeli negotiator, said

'progress" had been achieved.

"I predict that at the end of

this week, we will be able to

Dr. Shaath said Monday that

the police would be deployed

before Israeli troops withdraw

so as to "avoid a vacuum" in

security. Under the September

antonomy accord, a four-

month pullout was to have

give details."

started Dec. 13.

General Amnon Shaba the

The PLO also wanted speed

services, according to chief meanwhile visited Gaza City

PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath. on Tuesday on a mission to

tive change in the level of our coordination," Dr. Anani said.

"What is most important about this particular meeting is that, after evaluation of our previous coordination, we agreed we should be much more specific about how we proceed with our coordination. how to make it more committing to both parties and when we should meet," Dr. Anani

Officials from both sides said the talks focused on economic cooperation and details such as movement of people and goods between Amman and Palestinian self-rule areas in light of the security agreement.

"This meeting acquired a practical spirit that will enable us to proceed in tangihle steps forward, be it on the Jordanian-Palestinian track or in supporting either side in the Middle East peace process," said Mr. Abed Rabbo.

Jordanian sources said members of a joint monetary committee to oversee banking operations would be named dnring the current meeting. The PLO's foreign affairs

(Continued on page 5)

Two top British policemen

draw up plans to train and

offer technical assistance to the

Alain Juppe, on a visit to Israel

and the occupied territories,

urged Israel to free Palestinian

prisoners and balt the spread

of Jewish settlements to boost

Palestinian autonomy. (see

Israeli Prime Minister Yit-

zhak Rabin insisted Tuesday

that Israel would take the time

necessary to reach a detailed,

overall agreement on auton-

an agreement about Gaza-

Jericho will not take too much

time," Mr. Rabin said.

"I hope the negotiations on

"We have no intention of

dragging things out, or on the

other hand to rush into it. The

important thing is to reach an

overail agreement, which is de-

tailed and clear and can be

(Continued on page 5)

omy with the PLO.

French Foreign Minister

Palestinian police.

Faisal to press her case with protest

Deputy Prime Minister Saced Al Tal (left) and

Palestine Liberation Organisation Political De-

partment head Farouk Kaddoumi during a

By Mariam M. Shahin Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Deputy Tonjan Fais-al, who has accused fellow Deputy Jamal Khreisha of insulting and slandering her and of attempting to assault her during a parliamentary committee meeting, is going ahead with a plan to hold a protest in front of the Parliament huilding today to press her case.

Ms. Faisal, Jurdan's first elected woman member of Parliament, said mediation efforts by House Speaker Taher Al Masri and lead-ers of her Circussian community had not made much headway. She said she was insisting that Mr.
Khreisha apologise to her and Mr.
Masri had responded that he could
only try to hring the two deputies

No comment was available from Mr. Khreisha.

Circassian community leaders were meeting with their counter-parts from Mr. Khreisha's tribe from the central bedouin district Tuesday. No details were immediately available on the outcome of those contacts. Ms. Faisal and her supporters

are demanding that Parliament strip Mr. Khreisha of his immunity against prosecution. Ms. Faisal is suing him for "insult, slander and (attempted) assault" and is seeking JD 1 million in damages.

According to Ms. Faisal, who says she has witnesses to prove her

allegations, Mr. Khreisha abused her and her community and also threw an ashtray at her following a difference of points of view that emerged during a parliamentary panel meeting on Saturday.
"I have not received an apology

represents," Ms. Faisal said. "The lawsuit is on "

from Mr. Khreisha or the tribe he

According to Ms. Faisal, she is seeking to "teach people that democracy, individual freedoms

(Continued on page 5)



tween Israel and Syria apparently paralysed. The heads of the Israeli,

Palestinian, Jordanian, Syrian and Lebanese delegations started meeting quietly Tuesday after a two-week break.

The profile of the talks had been lowered beginning this year when talks elsewhere, most recently in Egypt between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), began to yield fruit.

The State Department has also moved its discussions from its headquarters to a downtown office building, and stopped counting how many rounds have taken place.

"These are streamlined, informal discussions which no longer carry numbers, Roman, Arabic or otherwise," said State Department spokesman Mike McCurry. "Same format, same press arrangements. which is to say no press

The spokesman declined to get involved in a debate with the government-controlled Syrian press which called the signing of a security agreement between the PLO and Israel a catastrophe.

break in Jordanian-Palestinian talks held at the

Foreign Ministry on Tuesday (Photo hy Yousef

"We don't respond to every characterisation they have of the progress being made in some other track," said Mr.

McCurry. But he said that the United States was urging Syria to back the ongoing peace process, especially agreements reached between the Jewish state and the PLO.

"We think that is a useful step towards a comprehensive and lasting peace for the entire region, a peace that Syria itself could one day participate in," added Mr. McCurry.

The apparently stalled Syrian-Israeli talks have also stopped progress between cause of Syria's key role in Lebanese affairs.

(Continued on page 5)

2 suspects admit complicity in Maaytah murder

BEIRUT (AP) - Two Palestinian suspects admitted com-plicity Tuesday in last month's assassination of Jordanian diplomat Nayeb Imran Maaytah, judicial sources said.

Bassam Abdullah Atiyeh and Salim Kassem Mehio told Examining Magistrate Saeed Mirza that they accompanied the alleged assassin, Yousef Mahmoud Shaaban, to the shooting and fled together with him, according to the sources, who spoke in exchange for anonymity. Further details of their statements were not available.

Mr. Maaytah, 42, the Jordaman Embassy's first secretary, was driving out of a car park near his home on Jan. 29 when he was shot dead by a gunman wielding a 9-mm pistol.

The three Palestinian suspects were arrested several days after the killing, which was a blow to Lehanon's efforts to clean up its image from the civil war years as a terrorist haven.

They are being held in solitary confinement pending a decision by the magistrate on whether to press charges. Their ages are not known.

Security sources say the suspects belong to a Palestinian group led by the notorious Abu Nidal.

Jordanian and Lebanese sources believe Abu Nidal was behind Mr. Maaytah's killing. But Abu Nidal's group, the Fateh-Revolutionary Council. has denied the allegation.

Mr. Atiyeh's and Mr. Kassem's admissions were in line with an account by Mr. Sbaahan's girlfriend, Itaf Yousef. She told interrogators

(Continued on page 5)

Gaza teenager shot dead

OCCUPIED GAZA (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian teenager in the Occupied Gaza Strip Tues-

day. Palestinian sources said. Palestinian sources said Ihab Barakat, 17, was shot on his way to school during a stonethrowing incident in a refugee camp near the town of Rafah. His death was confirmed by a local hospital.

Israel's Itim news agency said soldiers opened fire while breaking up a protest outside the home of a Palestinian who was shot by troops last week and died of his wounds on Monday. The army said Farez Abu Zakkar, 17, had been on its wanted list.

Police said earlier on Tuesday that a Palestinian had stabbed and slightly wounded an Israeli in the southern town of

The suspected attacker, a · teenager from the occupied. Gaza Strip, was arrested. Hospital officials said the Israeh

was wounded superficially in the head and neek. On the West Bank, the army

elosed a mosque near Ramallah saying it had been a propaganda centre for Izzedine Al Oassam, the armed wing of the Islamie Resistance Movement Hamas. The group announced Tues-

day that it was carrying out a 'Ramadan plan" avenge the killing of Palestinians by Israeli

"Vengeance will be taken anywhere. The blood of our militants will not flow unpunished and the Ramadan

plan has begun," the armed wing said. Hamas claimed responsibil-

ity for killing an Israeli secret service agent and wounding two more near Ramallah on Sunday. A Palestinian double agent, who bad collaborated with the authorities, led the Israelis into a trap, military

Israelis meanwhile began

dismantling the Gaza City lockup in a first sign of troop redeployment under the accord on Palestinian auton-

In Gaza City, hundreds of Palestinians watched as flatbed trucks pulled seven trailer barracks out of the Gaza central prison that holds 850 security

A Hehrew slogan sprayed on the side of one of the white trailers read "we will never leave Eretz Israel."

Troops also climbed onto the prison roof and took down antennas and small transmitters, Arab reporters said.

"It is clear that the peace agreement is real," said Ak Hamada, a 20-year-old student at Gaza City's Islamic University, said as he stood watching soldiers lifting the white trailers onto trucks. "I'm happy but a little scared because I really don't believe what I'm seeing."

Rifai secures prestigious council seat; Badran resigns in protest

his election drew a strong reaction from his political arch-rival former Prime Minister Mudar Badran, who submitted his resignation from the prestigious council in protest.

Mr. Badran confirmed to the Jordan Times he had resigned, he would not elaborate on the reasons.

The Upper House of Parliament yesterday chose Mr. Rifai to replace the late former prime minister. Bahjat Al Talhouni, in the ninemember panel composed of the speaker of the Senate, five senior judges and three

from the council. In addition to Mr. Badran.

another former prime minis-ter, Ahmad Obeidat, was also absent from Tuesday's Senate session. Their absence drew criticism from senators who felt since there was no voting on the Rifai nomination there was no need for them to stay away.

Supporters of Mr. Badran say that his resignation carries a "strong political message" that he is uncomfortable with the "rebabilitation of Mr. Rifai."

Government sources con-

tacted by the Jordan Times

said that there may be

Mudar Badran attempts to convince Mr. Badran to reconsider his decision, but that the regular procedure would be to elect a replacement for Mr. Badran in the council.

spillover of rivalry between the two former premiers has caused a "political crisis" in the Senate. The analysts say that the

problem is particularly disturbing since it is taking place in an institution that is supposed to remain above bickering typical of the Lower House of Parliament where deputies are elected by the different political and social trends in the country and not appointed by royal decree. But supporters of Mr. Bad-

ran say that the Senate has been "polarised" in support of Mr. Rifai, and this was alienating other political forces who feel that they have equally contributed to the

соилиту. "While Rifai and Badran are similar in their conservative thinking, both have completely different views on (Continued on page 5)

Serbs defy NATO ultimatum SARAJEVO (Agencies) to facilitate monitoring" by suggested Moscow feared the

Bosnian Serb leaders rejected demands Tuesday for the withdrawal of all their heavy arms from around Sarajevo, as divisions reportedly emerged between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the U.N. over interpretation of threats against the besieging In Moscow, President Boris

Yeltsin warned the West not to bypass Moscow in seeking a solution to the bosnian con-

"Some people are trying to resolve the Bosnian question without the participation of Russia, we will not allow this,' be said after signing a nuclear ban agreement with visiting British Prime Minister John Major.

Mr. Yeltsin's blunt remark

NATO threat against Bosnian Serb artiflery positions around Sarajevo could rob it of any political role in helping to solve the conflict.

NATO has set a deadline of midnight GMT on Sunday for the Serbs to withdraw their hig guns from around the Bosnian capital or face aerial bombard-

Bosnian Serb military leader General Ratko Mladic told the Tanjug news agency his weapons would not be withdrawn in line with the NATO deadline due to fall midnight Sunday.

But Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, speaking in his stronghold in Pale outside Sarajevo, said he was ready to order the regrouping of "part" of his heavy artillery "in order

United Nations peacekeepers. However, he told the Bosnian Serh SRNA agency that withdrawing all the beavy weaponry might prove "pointless" as there were "good chances" of finding a "partial

solution" to the Sarajevo cri-

Gen. Mladie said: "We will not leave our people defenceless. Nothing can force us to abandon our people in the face of fanatical Muslim units."

Gen. Mladic spoke after a meeting with U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) commanders for former Yugoslavia, General Jean Cot, and for Bosnia, Gen. Sir, Michael Rose, at the Bosman Serb Lukavica barracks near

(Continued on page 5)



Appointment of new governor | Israeli jets bomb Lebanon inflames Yemeni political crisis

SANAA (Agencies) — The appointment of a new governor has inflamed passions in Yemen just a week before feuding political parties are due to sign an accord aimed at salvaging the country's threatened unity.

Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, member of the southern-based Yemeo Socialist Party (YSP), appointed a new governor to a southern province in a decree issued on Monday.

But the decree was quickly over-ruled by the presidential council, currently dominated by the YSP's northern rival, the General Peoples Congress (GPC), and condemned by the third party in Yemen's coalition government.
"(The decree was) in viola-

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tion of the constitution, since appointment of senior officials lies within the jurisdiction of the council," Radio Sanaa reported.

The YSP and GPC, mired for mooths in political rivalry, were the ruling parties of former South and North Yemen respectively before the two merged in May 1990.

With Yemen facing its worst political crisis since unification, ruling and opposition parties are due to sign an agreement in Amman next week, providing for military, economic and administrative reforms.

Mr. Attas, according to Aden Televisioo, appointed Mobammad Ali 'Ahmad as governor of the southern province of Abyan to succeed the outgoing governor, Yahya Al Ra'i, who had been elected a deputy in a by-election.

Under the constitution, civil servants should resign their post upon their election to the 301-member parliament.

(The decree) runs counter to the law and constitution and harms the higher-interests of the country," one GPC official was quoted on Radio Sanaa as saying, "We call on all political forces to condemn this behaviour which is aimed at obstructing the signing of the accord.

The Islamist Islah Party, third member of Yemen's coalition government, also denounced the appointment, gave the Bakit members post. "The least that the Bakit will be said of "I dated cheques for which there the Attas measure is that it is secessionist," the radio quoted vi an Islah oficial as saying. "We" to have songht refuge in one of cannot find any explanation of . Hashed's strongholds to the this unlawful measure except that it reflects the desire to

The Associated Press

threat to its existence comes

Senior 'officials like

Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres say it will take too

many soldiers and too much

money to sustain small.

vulnerable Netzarim and

it's worrisome. But it gives us

more motivation to prove

that we will stay here," set-tler Itzhak Wasana, 26, said

Monday as he walked on a

sandy path along one of the

Later Monday, the settler

council representing 144 set-

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

21:10 2048 AD: The Green House Effect

PRAYER TIMES

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N.B.A. sport

N.B.A. sport
News in French
Le Journal De L'Histoire
Alews in Hebrew
News in Arabic

... Too Close for Comfort

PROGRAMME TWO

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-3

barbed wire fences.

If Peres says such a thing

perhaps other settlements.

from Israel these days.

continue the tense political situation and incite other political parties in order to create obstacles to arrangements for the signing of the accord."

The presidential council is made up of five members, but the two YSP representatives -Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedb and Salem Saleb Mobammad — bave been boycotting it.

The remaining three are President Ali Abdullah Saleb and Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani of the GPC and Abdul Maguid Al Zindani of the Islah Party.

The decree and counter-decree were broadeast-by-Aden Televisioo and Radio Sanaa run respectively by the YSP and the GPC. Aden Television gnored the presidential council's decree in its bulletin early on Tuesday.

Mr. Attas, like Mr. Beedh and other YSP officials bave beeo staying in Aden, capital of the former South Yemen and stronghold of the YSP. Cabinet meetings in Sanaa are chaired by Hassan Makki, first deputy prime minister and GPC member.

Tribal fued

A feud between members of Yemeo's two biggest tribal confederations has seot the price of cooking gas spiralling teofold as tribesmen hold up trucks carrying butane cylin-ders, political and tribal sources said Toesday.

Residents of Sanaa and other cities have been queuing over the past few days in search for the gas. The official price for butane is 45 rials (\$0.75) per cylinder, but the newspaper Al Shoura said the price has jumped as high as 500

Members of the Bakil confederation were bolding trucks belonging to members of the other confederation, Hashed. charging that a Hasbed businessman failed to pay the price of cars he bought from them, the sources said.

Tribal soorces said the businessman, whose name has been linked in newspaper reports over the past few days to cases of frand and forgery, was no cover

The businessman is reported

tlements in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip announced a

registration drive for volun-

NABATTYEH (Agencies) -Israeli warpianes blasted bases of resistance fighters in two assaults Tuesday.

ities to act and guarantee their

rights, the Bakil people cut the

roads from the Marib area

where butane gas is produced

and beld the trucks, preventing

them from proceeding to

Sanaa and other areas, the

The two confederations

were also involved in a dispute

over a road in the northwest-

ern area of Hajjah last montb

which led two members of the

Bakil seizing three French

tourists and bolding them hos-

Saturday following pledges by

the authorities to find a solu-

tion to the problem of the

road, which was originally

planned to cross Bakil land but

has been rerouted to go

Hashed is led by Sbeikh

Abdullah Beio Husseio Al

Ahmar, speaker of the parlia-

ment and leader of the Islamist

Convicts seek amnesty

Three kidnapped Chinese

engineers are in the bands of

wanted murderers who are de-

manding that the authorities

drop death sentences against

them, a Chinese embassy offi-

three Yemeni kidnappers want

the government to cancel

death seotences pronounced

against them in absentia," ear-

ly in Janoary, embassy Second

Secretary Luo Xiao Guaog

The kidnappers are wanted

"No progress was made by

for several murders, Yemeoi

the authorities in their talks

with the kidnappers," be said.

One of the hostages is chief engineer Yanj Yi, 55, accord-

ing to the diplomat, who did

The hostages are beld by members of the Khawlan tribe

in Hajanab region, 50

kilometres east of Sanaa, be

To win their release, the

embassy is in contact with the

ministries of interior and plan-

ning, and with influential Khal-

wan tribesmen as well, be said.

The engineers were kidnap-

ed Saturday while working oo

a road project financed by China to link Hajanah and

Maareb, 17 kilometres east of

the capital, in the rugged and

not name the two others.

sources said Monday.

To free the Chinese, the

cial said here Tuesday.

through Hashed areas.

Islah Party.

told AFP.

The three were freed on

sources said.

Security sources said at least one guerrilla of the Hizbollah group was wounded in the mid-morning attacks on the group's redoubts in South Lebanon.

The sources, who demanded anonymity, said the assaults targeted Hizbollah's arms hideouts and infiltration trails in Iglim Al Tofah, which faces an enclave Israel occupied in the south.

Two F-16 fighter-bombers swooped down from thick clouds at 9:50 a.m. (0750 GMT) to fire four rockets on Jabal Safi and the nearby valley of Nabeb Tasseh io Iqlim Al Toffah, Hizboliah's main strooghold in South

Smoke and dust shrouded the region. Half an hour later, the jets returned to unleash five more rockets on Iglim Al Tufah's bluffs, according to the security SOURCES.

Eyewitnesses said guerrillas retaliated with nine surface-to-air missiles, but scarlet balloons released by Israeli pilots deflected them

The planes also dropped

delayed-action bombs that

continued to explode about an bour after the raids, according to the sources. In occupied Jerusalem, an Israeli army spokesman confirmed the raid saying all aircraft returned safely to

"All the targets, which were in a zone entirely controlled by the Hizbollah, were destroyed," he said. The Hizbollah positions were used for training and launching attacks on Israeli targets, he said.

A spokesman for Hizbollah in Beirut said there were no casualties in the attacks. "The warplanes only hit rocks," a Hizbollah spokesman told AFP.

The raids came three days after Hizbollah's Secretary General Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah warned his group would step op attacks against Israel in South Lebanon.

The Iranian-backed movement killed four Israeli soldiers and wounded five others on Feb. 7 in the bloodiest attack since August, triggering Israeli air strikes and artillery attacks and threats of further repris-

Cabinet change fifth anniversary by several possible in

Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's prime minister has not ruled out the possibility of a cabinet resbuffle following reports one is planned for next month.

according to a newspaper re-Al Seyasseb and its sister paper the English-language Arab Times oewspaper on Monday quoted reliable sources as saying a reshuffle of

the emirate's 16-member

cabinet would take place after

the annual 'Eid Al Fitr holiday in mid- March, Tuesday's edition of Al Qabas said it had asked Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sbeikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah whether the cabinet would resign in the way indicated by Al Seyasseb and the

Arab Times.

It quoted him as replying: "The matters are bound by their timings - after a week, after a month, after a year - I don't want to hide anything from the people of Kuwait, and I don't want to say to them a thing that will not happen."

'Eid Al Fitte which celebrates the end of the fasting month of Ramadair, falls this year on March 13-15.

"The main purpose of the change is to strengthen the inet and doost its powers Al Seyasseb reported.

The country's higher authorities believe it is bigh time the cabinet was reinforced in such a way as to achieve more barmony among cabinet members and prepare the government for new developments in the country which require unity and quick decision-making," the newspaper quoted its sources as saying.

The report said it was not clear how extensive the changes would be. It did not say which ministers would be replaced but added a number of people had been approached to see if they were interested in serving in a new cabinet.

It noted that current cabinet, formed after general elections in October 1992, includes a record six elected members of parliament (MPs).

The elections, restoring parliament after a six-year break, produced an outspoken assembly dominated by opposition veterans who have seldom hesitated in challenging different aspects of government

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vatican envoy in Israel presents credentials

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Vatican's first diplomatic envoy to Israel, Monsignor Andrea Cordero Lanza di Montezemolo, presented his credentials on Monday to Foreign Minister Shirmon Peres, officials said. Mr. Cordero di Montezemolo who will have the title of "special representative," will have his office in Jaffa, near Tel Aviv. Jaffa has a large Franciscan community. Israel's first diolomatic envoy to the Vatican Shmuel Hadas presented his credentials to Pope John Paul II on Thursday. Under their "fundamental agreement" signed on Dec. 30, the Holy See and Israel will exchange "special representatives" before upgrading their relations after a few months to ambassadorial level.

Israeli soldier dies in blast during training

TEL AVIV (AP) - An Israeli soldier died in an accident wheo a grenade went off in his vest as he trained for action in southern Lebanon, reports said Tuesday. The army said Shoshan Yanai, 20, of the southern town of Ofakim was killed. Monday while training for "operational action" on a firing range in northern Israel. It said the chief of staff Ehud Barak has appointed an investigation. Israeli newspapers said a preliminary investigation showed the grenade apparently exploded while it was still in Yanai's vest. The Haaretz dady said Yanai's unit was training for action in southern Lebanon. Last year 17 soldiers died in army accidents, three while in training, five while on duty in Lebanon and the rest mostly io traffic accidents, the newspapers said.

Traffickers, drugs, seized in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) - Iranian security forces have netted 92 drug traffickers in the northeastern province of Khorasan in a two-week crackdown, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The agency, said 720 kilogrammes of drugs were seized from the traffickers in the cities of Gezik. Gonabad, Torbate-e-Jam, Sabzevar, Qaeen and Kashmar. It said a small quantity of light arms and a number of vehicles also were seized. The brief dispatch did not say when the operation began or ended. Khorasan neighbours Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, which has been under tight security since violence erupted in its capital city, Zahedan, Feb. 1.

Iran opens repaired refuelling jetty

NICOSIA (AP) — A refuelling jetty in Iran's key oil port of Abadan, which was heavily bombed during the 1980-88 war with Iraq, was reopened Monday after 13 years. The Islamic Republic News Agency, said the jetty could only service vessels of up to five-metre draught and with a 2,000-tonoe capacity. It said the jetty would service 1,200 trawlers, tugboats and merchant sbips in the region. The facility, bombed in the early days of the war, was repaired by Oil Ministry workers, IRNA said. Throughout the war, the Iraqis repeatedly targeted Abadan and its surroundings in an effort to cripple Iran's oil exports, Tebran's economic lifeline. Abadan, in soutbern Iran, is known as Iran's oil capital. It houses what once was the world's largest refinery. The refinery also is under repair.

Lebanon wants to sell 10 grounded Mirages

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese government agreed Monday to sell 10 mirage fighter planes, grounded since the early days of Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war. The government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri gave no further details in a statement after a cabinet session but officials said Pakistan had showed interest in buying the jets. They said the government bas still to get a report from the military estimating the worth of the warplanes, bought by Lebanon from France in the 1960s. rebuild or sell the planes, which stopped operating in the early: days of the war, poor maintenance crippled the jets. Six ancient but operational Hawker Hunters currently make up Lebanon's small airforce.

Israel and EU to open talks on new accord

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Israel and the European Union (EU) will soon launch negotiations on a new cooperation agreement with the aim of concluding a deal by the end of the year, the EU delegation in Tel Aviv said Monday. Manuel Marin, vice president of the European Commission, will visit Israel on Thursday to announce the talks, for which an exact date still has to be set, the delegation said in a statement, "The agreement is to reflect the different aspects of the economic relationship between the EU and Israel, reflecting Israel's status as a neighbouring country with which the EU wishes to maintain particularly close relations." The statement said. Israel wants greater access to European markets in the new agreement which is to replace a trade accord dating from 1975.

U.N. seeks extension of Iraq aid programme

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The United Nations is seeking one year's extension of its humanitarian aid programme in Iraq; an: official said here Monday. Mohammad Zejjari, the coordinator of the U.N.'s humanitarian activities, told AFP that donor. countries last month in Geneva had asked the United Nations to prepare an annual rather than a six-month aid programme beginning in April. The U.N. humanitarian programme, established after the Gulf war in February 1991, seeks to meet the most urgent needs of Iraqis. Iraq has been hard bit by sanctions imposed after its forces invaded Kuwait in August 1990. Mr. Zejjari said the world body had received \$200 million between March 1993 and March 1994, while the total cost of the aid programme for that same period was estimated at \$489 million. U.N. member states finance the programme through voluntary contributions.

...... Jeddah (SA

Iran's Revolutionary Guards Islamic associations here and the Khordad-15 religious vowed on Tuesday that the foundation, which has put up a reward of more than \$2 million death sentence against British author Salman Rushdie would be carried out. on Mr. Rushdie's head. British Prime Minister John The guards, in a statement Major said on Monday that

Iran strengthens stand

Rushdie deserves death

TEHRAN (Agencies) -

published in Iranian newspapers, said the "fatwa" issued against Mr. Rushdie by Iran's late spirtual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini five years ago was "irrevocable and would definitely be executed."

The Indian-born writer was condemned to death for his novel "The Saturic Verses." which was judged to blasoheme islam.

"Rushdie has insulted the sentiments and beliefs of more than a billion Muslims and should be punished according to the fatwa." the statement The Iranian official news

agency said Monday on the fifth anniversary of the ruling that Mr. Rushdie was an apostate and should die. "The sentence has to be carried out irrespective of

whether the apostate repents or not," it said. On Tuesday, Jomhuri-e-Islami newspaper denounced Western support for Rushdie

and called on "Islamic forces to kill him."
"It is time to assert the willof the Islamic World," said the: daily, close to Islamic hardliners. Islamic forces should eli-...

The paper said that the verdict had been reaffirmed on its

"Salman Rushdie is not a national issue specific to any certain Muslim country...

Iran could not expect to enjoy

with the rest of the world until

1RNA said: "World Muslims

and leaders of Muslim coun-

tries have made it clear that no

one has the right to alter or

hinder the implementation of

"full and friendly relations

the sentence was lifted.

this decree.

according to divine laws, an apostate like Rushdie, born into a Muslim household, faces the death sentence for blaspheming prophets and values held dear by world Muslims. The sentence has to be car-

ried out, irrespective of whether the apostate repents or not, because repentance in such a case is a matter solely concerning divine mercy in

"Political observers consider the West's support for a sentenced apostate as being a grimace to the just demand of one billion Muslims... Muslims will not forget that insult, it added.
It criticised Britain for continuing to offer Mr. Risidic pro-

tection and lambasted President Bill Clinton for receiving the writer in Washington last

minate Rushdie and strike a blow to the enemies of Islam."

In isolated settlement, real threat could be Israel thing the peace process was bringing was more soldiers. The work stopped several days ago, Mr. Wasana said,

apparently because the Palestinian owner of the land got a court injunction against the Netzarim residents say they

live here out of a sense that God promised the land to the Jews. They scoff at the idea that they are just holding oot to get the best deal possible from the government if they agree to leave. 'We came here as

pioneers," said Mr. Uzan, standing in his greenhouse. Bracha Nissan, 28, mother

of four and soon to give birth, takes care of eight toddlers in the day-care centre. She tries to block out the hostile surroundings and the lack of support from other Israelis.

"It's a good life here. I don't want to talk about the future. We believe we belong bere and we will stay here," she said.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

teers willing to block troops NETZARIM, occupied Gaza with passive resistance at ensettlements, including 16 in homes built on sand dunes dangered settlements. Gaza, would be dismantled over the past decade. One-Strip — This isolated Jewish during the five-year interim period of Palestinian From Netzarim, populathird of the cottages and all settlement keeps out Palestithe mobile homes stand empnians with two lines of election 180, the outskirts of ty because the settlement has Gaza City with its 300,000 autonomy. tric fences, barbed wire and Mr. Peres and others now watchtowers. But the real

Palestinian residents were clearly visible during a visit Monday. The settlement. astride the main southern entrance to the city, is about a five-minute drive from the city centre. Nobody from Netzarim ever goes.

The settlement emerged as a key obstacle in delaying implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord well past the initial Dec. 13 deadline.

The Palestinians wanted it dismantled. They found it inconceivable that for the sake of 27 families, an entire army company would control a main east-west artery in

In the talks, Israel stuck to the original plan signed last summer, which says that no

argue, however, that since Israel is no longer being pressured by the Palestinians. it may decide on its own to dismantle Netzarim and a similar enclave north of Gaza City called Dugit. Residents there have said they would exchange their homes for similar property in Israel.

Mr. Peres also cited Vered Yericho, near the soon-to-be autonomous West Bank town of Jericho, as a possible candidate for dismantling.

With his remarks. Mr. Peres signaled that the future of Netzarim and perhaps other settlements is negoti-

"sapling" in Hebrew, is a cluster of about 30 red-roofed cottages and 50 mobile had trouble attracting residents to such an obvious target.

Netzarim, which means

Despite the threat, they rejected an army request last month to move soldiers into 10 empty caravans to protect the site once autonomy be-"I don't know any man who

wants an army base next to bis home," said tomato farmer Eliayahu Uzan, 33, belying the sign of one of the mobile homes that reads, "Netzarim has a heart for soldiers." About two weeks ago tthe

army began levelling the sand dunes outside Netzarim for a new base, prompting Palestinians to grumble that the only

EMERGENCIES Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 14, Aquba 22, Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent. Aquba 27 per 637111 Food Control Centre . Civil Defence Department Civil Defence Immodiate 630341 **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY** 775121

Dr. Misbah Al Hijjawi

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Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 787111 . 010230 RBD: Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101 rdan Television The Al Nafees Hospital Princess Haya Hospital . Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Affa Intl. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

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QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information depart-ment at the Oveen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

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DEPARTURES

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(Sunrise) Duha 11:50 Maghreb 17:25 18:43 CHURCHES

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Tel. 811295

Bulletin supplied by the Department of

cold air front, that is why clouds will gradually build up with rain falling in various parts of the Kingdom, temper-atures dropping, and winds becoming southwesterly active. In Aqaba, partly cloudy weather conditions will prevail with winds becoming westerly active and seas rough.

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prene Tcl.675691 The Evangelical Local Church in Am-

WEATHER

The Kingdom will be affected by a



the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces Tuesday visited the Armed Forces headquarters where he met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh with whom he

discussed issues of interest to the Armed Forces. The King was accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ibn Al Hussein and Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ren Shaker

Convicted plotters appeal military court sentence

g the 1980-88 va ple convicted by a military years. The Islama minimal of plotting to assassing the state of ould only serve ste King Hussein are appealing with a 2.000-tone their verdicts in a civilian ± 1.200 trawles appeals court, a lawyer said ion. The facility is repaired by 0

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Naem Madani, one of a team of lawyers representing the eight men, said the appeal was based on "the illegality of the verdict issued by the State Security Court," a juryless tribunal presided over by military

Mr. Madani said the appeal was filed at the Court of Cassation on Monday. No date was fixed for hearing.

It marked the first time a verdict by the State Security Court has been eballenged in a civil court since Parliament passed a law last year overturning a statute that had made the military tribunal's verdicts fin-

Three of 10 defendants, two of them tried in absentia, were handed death sentences while the rest were given jail terms ranging from 15 years to life at hard labour.

Five were students from a military academy and another was a member of the Royal Escort Unit that follows the King around the clock, Three others, including the two at large, were traders and the fourth a mosque preacher.

All the defendants were found guilty of conspiring to kill the King during a June 26 graduation ceremony at Mu'tah University, a military college in south Jordan, in a plot hatched by the illegal Hezb-Al Tahrir, or Islamie Liberation Party.

Hezb Al Tahrir, a puritan Islamic group, does not recognise any existing Arah or Muslim governments and advocates the establishment of Islamic caliphates in their place.

Throughout the four-month trial, the defence maintained that confessions of defendants that formed the pillar of the prosecution case were ex-

gives its green signal to re-

leasing assistance," said a di-

The World Bank condition

also suits many independent-

minded Palestinians who

have been arguing the PLO leadership should switch its

"revolution-oriented libera-

tion" strategy to "nation-

building priorities" and focus

on people's qualifications rather than political loyalty.

Mr. Arafat has come under

severe criticism from PLO

figures as well as independent

Palestinians for what they see

as his refusal to make amends

in his approach and to

appoint people who may not

be proven loyalists but are

experts in their respective

During exchanges with a

group of reformists who also

criticised his style of single-

handed approach to negotia-

tions with Israel and antocra-

tic decision-making, Mr.

Arafat agreed that indepen-

dent Palestinians could be

appointed to the PECRD as

well as other institutions

which will play a key role in

the five-year interim auton-

retaining his position as the

overall head of the council

and a final say in all matters

related to its policy and func-

tions," said the Palestinian

Ahmad Qouriea, who led

the Palestinian side in the

secret negotiations in Oslo,

Norway, that led to the Sept.

13 accord, is the executive

Mr. Qouriea beads the

Palestinian side to economic

talks with Israel. The talks,

which focus on trade and

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Israel, are scheduled to re-

A 12-member committee

has been named to govern

the council, and critics s.y

that most of its members are

Arafat lovalists with intie ex-

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sume in Paris on Feb. 21.

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tracted under torture. Mr. Madani, the lawyer asserted that the tribunal "did not follow the trial process as prescribed by law" and ignored a precedent where the same court had ruled that Hezb Al Tahrir did not espouse violence as a means to achieve its objectives.

Additionally, he said, "the interrogation (of the accused) was illegal, and unacceptable means were used by the interrogators to secure confessions from the defendants."

Mr. Madani also argued that the defence was denied any chance to produce evidence that the accused were tortured.

13 killed, hundreds wounded in occupied territories,

AMMAN (Petra) - The Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry here has said that the Israeli authorities last month killed 13 Arabs and wounded hundreds of others in clashes that occurred in the West Bank and Gaza

years, said the statement.

Since the signing of the Washington pact between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September last year, the Israeli authorities have confiscated 46,000 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank to expand or build settlements, uprooted 5,500 fruit trees owned by Palestinians, evicted 46 families from their homes in the course of building Jewish settlements, and demolisehd 63

statement. Since the occupation of Arab lands in 1967, Israel bas confiscated more than three million dunums of Arabowned land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, and has never ceased to build settlements to encourage more Jews

the statement. the Gaza Strip has 20.

tinually facing torture and are suffering from contagious diseases due to poor facilities and malnutrition.

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) bopes by July to quarters in Vienna to Amman, men Tuesday. Speaking in an exclusive interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Turkmen said that departmnets whieb bave direct links with the ser-

Turkmen: UNRWA keen to maintain

present level of services in Jordan

Rter Turkmen

Referring to the reason for his current visit, which started Monday, Mr. Turkmen said that he wanted to follow up on UNRWA's activities which are handled by some 6,000 staff members in Jordan.

Amman also hosts a head office which supervises services to the Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom as well as in Syria, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza Strip, added the agency commissioner general.

Services handled by the agency's staff in Jordan come second in size to those offered to the refugees in the Gaza Strip, where poverty and need are widespread, said Mr. Turk-

He pointed out that UN-RWA was keen on maintaining the level of its present services

in Jordan despite its meagre financial sources this year. In Jordan, he said, UNRWA offers services to the residents

of 10 camps which have 201 schools, offering education to 152,000 students, in addition to two vocational training centres and 21 health centres in Am-

man and other governorates. UNRWA, which offers food aid to 29,000 refugees, is seeking to build more schools for refugee children and those who have just returned from the Gulf countries to settle in Jordan, added the agency's commissioner general.

In all, UNKWA annually spends JD 61 million in re-fugee services in Jordan, he

Mr. Turkmen referred to services in Gaza, noting that the agency's assistance is offered to at least seven per cent of the population which lives in abject poverty, UNRWA offers financial

loans for small-size, incemegenerating projects to stem poverty in the strip, according to Mr. Turkmen.

The agency plans to carry out major development schemes in the Gaza Strip dur-ing the transitional, autonomy rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, drawing on donations from the United States, Japan and the European Union, which gave pledges for \$80 million for that purpose.

Omani, Palestinian envoys laud Kingdom's efforts to reconcile Yemeni leaders

AMMAN (J.T.) - The ambassadors of Oman and Palestine to Jordan Tuesday voiced their backing of Jordan's efforts to bring about reconciliation between the Yemeni leaders for the sake of preserving Yemen's unity.

transfer some of its depart-

ments from the agency's head-

according to UNRWA Com-

missioner General Ilter Turk-

vices to the Palestine refugees

in the Middle East will be

transferred here to be closer to

Mr. Turkmen, who is cur-

rently on a three-day visit to

Jordan, was asked about pros-

pects for increasing the salaries of UNRWA staff in Jordan.

He said that the agency's em-

ployees get salaries equivalent to those paid to government

employees, but the agency will

Earlier reports had quoted

Minister of State Adel Irsheid

as saying that in his talks with

Mr. Turkmen in Vienna last week he learnt that the agency

would pay salary increases to

its staff retroactively, as of the

start of 1994, and that it would

purchase food and medicine

for its functions from the King-

give them araise.

dom's markets.

the fields of operations.

Mohammad Ben Sultan Al Busaid Oman's ambassador was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that unity in Yemen which was achieved in May 1990 is of concern to all Arabs and not the 'Yemenis alone.'

The ambassador lauded the Kingdom's efforts to convene a

ers President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his deputy Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh next Sunday in Amman to conclude an agreement that would seal the ongoing reconciliation

The Omani envoy said that Oman would pursue efforts to back Jordanian mediation efforts towards healing the rift between the Yemeni leaders. Jordan's efforts, he said, reflect the Kingdom's concern to reestablish solidarity among

Arah states. Echoing the Omani ambassador's, views, Palestine President Al Tayeh Abdnl Rahim said Tuesday that the Palestinian people are firmly behind Jordan's endeavours to end the Yemeni leaders' disputes and help them preserve unity. Mr. Abdul Rahim recalled

Yemen's continued support for the Palestinian cause at the international and Arab fora and its continued material and moral support for the Palestinian people. The preservation of the

Yemeni unity, he said, is bound to boost the moral of the Arab masses in general and the Palestinians in particular... The signing of a reconcilia-

tion and reform agreement was

originally scheduled to have taken place in Amman earlier this month, but was put off after last minute differences emerged between the dominant parties in the North and South of the country,

Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress and Mr. Beedh's Yemen Socialist Party ruled North and South Yemen respectively tutil they merged in May 1990, creating unified Yemen.

The expected peace accord provides for political, econoprovides for pointed, economic, military and administra-tive reforms aimed at ending the country's political crisis.

Palestinian council invites qualified candidates to join tion before the World Bank

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - An advertisement myiting applications from qualified candidates to work for the Palestine Economic Council for Recond of the year. the struction and Development (PECRD) appeared in a Jordanian newspaper Tues-

Palestinian sources said the advertisement was aimed at serving two purposes: One to open the door for qualified Palestinians living in the diaspora to join the council, which is in charge of reconstructing the economy of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the other to meet the demands of donors that qualifications rather than political patronage be the

d AFP that donor basis for appointment to the ie United Nations, council. Palestine Liberation Orgamisation (PLO) Chairman 191 seeks to med Yasser Arafat has indicated that he had no problems in hiring "Qualified people to ad received \$200 work for the conneil as long + while the total the final decision rests with thim," said an informed iod was estimated e the programme Palestinian source.

The advertisements invited applications from experts

from various sectors of state economy; directors of treasury and hudget, financial ternal auditor, tax directors, researchers and statisticians and

computer experts, etc. The place of work was given as Palestine. Applicants were asked to send their details to PECRD in Tunis and were given a fax number at a hotal in occupied Jerusalem, giving Feb. 25 as the deadline for applications.

The advertisement did not state Palestinian origin as a prerequisite. The sources said the door was open for all nationalities, but preference will be given to Palestinians. According to the sources,

such advertisements appeared for nearly one month in the occupied territories. The sources said they did not know what the response was. Donor countries, which

have pledged \$2.2 billion in assistance to support Palestinian self-rule envisaged in the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord. are demanding that qualified people be appointed to the PECRD, which will channel the aid.

"In fact, it is a precondi-

report

department statement said victims of the Israeli attacks were 15 to 22 years of

Last month, Israeli courts passed sentences against 104 Palestinians who are now serving prison terms ranging from several months to a number of

Arab houses in a bid to stem the resistance, according to the

to settle on Arab lands, said

It noted that the West Bank now has 186 settlements while

Referring to conditions in Israeli jails, the report said that Palestinian detainees are con-

Japanese official ends visit after positive review of bilateral ties, peace process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - A senior Japanese official left Amman Tuesday after talks on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations and economic cooperation.

Shigero Endo, director of the First Middle East Department of the Japanese Ministry, also reviewed preparations for the next meeting of a multilateral working group on the environment, Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda said.

Mr. Ikeda noted that Mr. Endo, who headed for Syria, had assumed his new post recently and was seeking to famiharise himself with the views of the various parties in the Middle East in the context of the 27-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process and the Japanese role in the negotia-

Japanese officials have said that their country is committed to building an atmosphere conducive to the peace talks while leaving it to the parties directly involved to reach agreements.

This would mean encouraging the parties to participate in joint economic projects and shared regional infrastructure. Tourism is an area that Japan believes should be developed in Jordan as a means to facilitate "human contacts" that would contribute to a better atmosphere in the peace talks. officials from Tokyo say.

Tokyo chairs the environment working group of the multilateral phase of the peace process and is the deputy chairman of the working groups on economic cooperation and wa-

The next meeting of the environment group is scheduled to be held in Cairo next month. During that meeting, a project to set up a pollution monitoring and data-collection centre in Aqaba is expected to be given a final shape.

The project is expected to be shared among Jordan, Egypt, Israel and possibly Saudi Arabia, all sharing the Red Sea basin. The United States and the Enropean Union, as well as Japan, are the key contributors to the project which environment officials describe as vital to ensuring that emergency mechanisms are in place to counter any pollution of the Red Sea.

Ambassador Ikeda ocscribed as constructive Mr. Endn's talks bere with Minister of

Planning Ziad Fariz and Information Minister Jawad Anani, one of Jordan's key strategists in the peace process: The talks covered Jordan's

economic situation and its efforts to reschedule its foreign debts and Japanese support for the various development projects under way in the King-Japan has consistently sup-

ported Jordan's economic development and has contributed significantly to the Kingdom's efforts to absorb the negative impact of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis. It extended \$750 million in loans and grants to Jordan during that period.

Jordan's debts to Japan now stand at JD 904 million. Part of it has been rescheduled and Japanese officials have promised to respond positively to Jordan's efforts for further res-

cheduling. Mr. Ikeda said an \$80 million Japanese loan to Jordan's energy sector was in the pipeline. While a decision in principle has already been taken that the loan would be granted, specifics of the loan agreement have not been finalised, the ambassador told the Jordan Times.

"It is a matter of procedures" of the government," be said, correcting a report which said that Jordan and Japan were expected to sign the loan agreement next month. The loan will match a similar

loan granted by the World Bank to help develop the Kingdom's energy sector, particularly a plan to expand the Aqaba thermal power plant at a total cost of more than JD 300 million.

The Japanese pledge to match the World Bank loan was made during a donors conference in Paris early last year which produced pledges of \$390 million to help Jordan plug a gap in the balance of

The Japanese government indicated during Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majaii's visit to Tokyo in November that it might increase its involvement in the project, perhaps up to \$150 million, according to SOUTCES.

Also expected during this year is Japanese assistance of up to \$40 million over and above bilateral lours, according to the sources.

Jordan does not qualify for any large amount of outright grants from the Japanese government since the Kingdom's per capita income is above the \$800 that Tokyo has set as the per capita income determina-tor for its direct financial assist-

Japan stands out among world donors in rejecting debt relief. Its policy has always advocated self-reliance through national efforts while not shirking external obliga-

Japanese officials have explained that a promise made by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, to Dr. Maiali in December that Tokyo would help Jordan's comomic efforts meant that Tokyo would make more funds available to the Kingdom rather than offer debt relief.

Jordan Times Tel. 667171

Edson — a new Waterman pen In keeping with Waterman's

worldwide reputation for technological superiority and innovative design, their newest top-of-the-range fountain pen, the Edson, offers consumers yet another landmark in the history of

writing instruments. In 1883 Lewis Edson Waterman invented the modern fountain pen. In the 1920s the Waterman ink cartridge was invented and patented by the company. Today, Waterman introduce a fountain pen with a highly colour.

sophisticated ink feed system that ensures a smooth and steady ink flow and helps prevent the pen leaking, even at high altitudes.

Futuristic in design, elliptical in shape, the barrel of the Edson is a deep and translucent midnight blue which has been developed by Waterman engineers with the introduction of an unique double wall structure. The special fabric of the external barrel allows for the great transparency and depth of

Hotels introduce business travellers package

Forum hotels international have introduced another package tailored for the group business travellers, the trade mission to the Middle East.

The trade mission package includes excellent benefits which will ease the smooth organisation of a trade mission or business delegation. The package offers a variety of benefits which include group transportation of the delegation to and from nearest international airport, complimeotary day use of meeting

Inter-Continental hotels and room, welcome drink upon arrival, free stay for spouse and mission leader upgrade.

Manther Twai, director of

sales at Hotel Inter-Continental

Jordan, says that this packages is another step to ensure Inter-Continental's lead in providing quality services to the business travelier Mr. Twal adds that the package is complementary to other business services provided by Hotel Inter-Continental Jordan such as the Club Inter-Continental, the Six Continent's Club and the Global Business Option.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural

Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight). Art exhibition entitled "Selections from the Artistic Works of Terra Sancta High School Students" at Amman National

University (Salt Road). Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French

Art and photo exhibition by several Arab artists at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 720902). Exhibition by Lebanese artist Hussein Madi at Darat At Funun

"permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists. (Tel. Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the

BOOK EXHIBITIONS

Book exhibition at the University of Jordan. * Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00-midnight).

DRAMAS

Drama in Arabic entitled "Flee From Death" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m. Theatrical performances for children at the Royal Cultural

FILM

Centre at 8:00 p.m.

The Film entitled "The Land Where the Blues Began" at the American Center at 2:30 p.m. (60 minutes).

BBME honours businesses

Derek Kelly, area manager of the British Bank of the Middle East in Jordan hosted a cocktail reception at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Feb. 10, 1994 to honour local businesses that have a MasterCard relationship with the

bank's Card Centre. One hundred and fifty guests attended, among them

general manager of all top hotels, restaurants shops, travel and car rental agencies as well as Royal Jordanian Airlines. Local senior executives of the hank were present, as was Gerard Monteiro, manager personal banking for the BBME in the United Arah Emirates.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan. Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

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Ultimatum may work

WITH FIVE days left to go before the end of NATO's ultimatum to Serbian forces to pull out their big guns from the vicinity of Sarajevo, all signals from the area indicate that the Serbs are this time beginning to heed the international

U.S. President Bill Clinton appeared to be upbeat Monday about the success of NATO's diplomacy where the U.N. has failed over the past two years. So far the Serbs have moved 28 out of 500 heavy guns that have circled the capital city and rained death and destruction on it during the past years. Yet President Clinton has also said there is still the "larger issue of whether the international community can lead towards a reasonable peace agreement quickly after establishing a safe zone around Sarajevo.

This time around there is a real prospect for advancing the peace talks between the three warring factions. Once the Serbs received the loud and clear signal that NATO would take immediate and forceful action to stop the carnage in Bosnia, their leaders decided to talk. In retrospect, the failure of all past efforts to end the armed conflict in former Yugoslavia was due to the ambivalent position of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. Without a clear-cut political will to end the cycle of violence in the war torn country, the Serbs had no incentive to strike a reasonable deal and end their waves of war

Against this backdrop, the bombing of Sarajevo last week that took the lives of nearly 70 men, women and children, was a turning point in the Bosnian conflict. It is unfortunate that nations begin to move and take effective measures against aggressors only after a tragedy occurs. The families of the people who lost their lives on that black Saturday may draw some comfort when they realise that NATO leaders, spearheaded by President Clinton, and French President Francois Mitterrand, have decided to act in the face of continued bloodletting in Bosnia.

There is little doubt that the climate for peace in that country has now made a turn around. Russia, the traditional ally of the Serbs, has reluctantly bnt effectively supported the decision to end the ongoing massacres and move towards a just settlement of the disputes between the Bosnians, Croats and Serbs. Russian Ambassador to the U.N. Yuli Vorontsov had this to say in the wake of the latest developments: "It is obviously extremely important for the Security Council to back up its demands with a proper resolution," for a ceasefire in Sarajevo and the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the zone. With Moscow edging closer to NATO's stance on the Bosnian situation, the stage is set for a remarkable progress in the peace talks on the future of the country. Hopefully NATO and the U.N. will stick to their guns this time in order to give peace in that troubled region of the world a real chance.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Tuesday commented on the resumption of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations in Washington, describing the talks as a matter of routine work that does not yield any fruitful result. Such meetings oo longer produce magic effect on the Arab neasses as the majority of Arabs believe that the talks are mainly aimed to keep the peace process alive working, while the real efforts are being made behind the scenes said, the daily. If anything, the Israelis turned out to be the main beneficiary of the peace process which, the paper said, has opened all the doors wide for its leaders to achieve further gains at the expense of the Arabs Nation. In such a climate, and due to little care given by Washington as to whether the talks would achieve any result, the Israelis feel they are not obliged to give any concessions to the Arab and so they continue to bold on to their intransigent position, added the paper. The paper said that there is no point of continuing the Washington talks, which are not bound to achieve any positive results as long as the Israelis remain adamant in their position and determined to deny the Arabs their legitimate rights. It calle 1 on the Arab parties to the negotiations to re-examine the situation and refrain from participating in further meetings until the United States bas assumed its role as an active partner in the talks and in helping to achieve genuine peace.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'l daily discussed the situation in Iraq

three years after the allied forces bombed the Al Amirich shelter. killing hundreds of innocent civilians. It was a massacre that Ishamed the whole world community, and its anniversary reminds 'hat we stood witness to the atrocity and are not helping to end

the see "rings of the Iraqi people, said Tareq Masarweh. It is we, the Arabs continue to impose sanctions on the Iragis, further causing them u. old sufferings, said the writer.

By Avi Sillaim

The writer is a professor of modern Middle Eastern history at S.T. Anthony's College at Oxford University. The article is reprinted from the college's

THE AGREEMENT signed

by Israel and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Sept. 13, fully merited the overworked epithet 'historic' because it was the first time that both sides, simultaneously, accepted the principle of partition as the basis for the settlement of their conflict. The logic of partition is compelling. Since there are two peoples and only one land, partition of the land is the only fair and sensible solution. Partition was first proposed by the Peel Commission in 1937 and again by the U.N. in 1947 and turned down by the Palestinians both times. By the time the Palestinian National Council (PNC) endorsed the principle of partition and a two-state solution in 1988, Israel, under a Likud government, rejected the idea. That both sides now accept the idea of partition would seem to support Abba Eban's observation that people are capable of acting rationally when they have exhausted all the other alternatives.

To be sure, the Declaration of Principles (DOP) for limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho for an interim period of five years falls a long way short of the demand for an independent Palestinian state. But big things sometimes bave modest beginnings. State-building is a slow and gradual process and the most difficult part of it is the beginning. The history of Zionism is highly instructive in

The Israel-PLO accord and its critics



this respect. Early Zionist leaders, unlike their Palestinian counterparts, were accomplished masters of the art of political gradualism. When the Peel Commission proposed a tiny Jewish state in 1937. Chaim Weizmann, the uncle of Israel's current president, thought that "the Jews would be fools not to accept it even if it is the size of a table-clotb." Although the Gaza-Jericho offer is about the size of a table-clotb, the Palestinians would do well to beed Weizmann's advice.

Of Jericbo Chaim Weizmann said: "It was there that walls crumbled before the sound of trumpets. I have never heard of walls being built in this way." Although the reference harked back to the biblical story about Joshua's first major victory in the "Promised Land," it has especial resooance today. Once again, the Palestinians would be well advised to emulate the example of their opponents.

In their quest for statehood, the Zionists employed two strategics: political Zionism and practical Zionism. The former was directed at cultivating international support for the idea of a Jewish state, the latter at building up on the ground the infrastructure of the state. Neither strategy would have worked on its own; together they paved the way to statehood in 1948. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has won a major diplomatic victory, but be and his colleagues now face the much more daunting challenge of building up the institu-

up in the occupied territories. Palestimans who accuse Mr. Arafat of a sell-out should ask themselves wby it is that Yitzhak Rabio's domestic opponeots level precisely the same charge against him. If Mr. Rabin bas conceded nothing of substance to the Palestinians, why are some Israelis up in arms against him? The answer is quite simple. Members of the Likud and of the nationalistic parties further to the right see the deal as the beginning of the "Greater Israel". Their

tions of a state from the ground

ideology bolds that the "Land of Israel," including the West Bank, belongs to the people of Israel. All of it. And for ever. They consider, rightly in my opinion, the tiny enclave in Jericho as the thin end of the wedge of a Palestinian state.

Vehement opposition to the deal on the part of Palestinian bardliners and Islamic militants was only to be expected. Some people can never be satisfied. More worrying is the growing opposition to the deal from moderates like Farouk Kaddoumi, the PLO "foreign minister," and prominent in-tellectuals like Professor Edward Said. It has to be conceded that the critics have some cause for concern since the deal is not a full-blown agreement but largely an agenda for future negotiations. Yet some of the specific arguments put forward against the deal are rather one-sided.

One agreement for saying "no" to Mr. Rabin's offer is that it amounts to less than the

very strong and a very weak partner necessarily involve concessions hidden in embarrassment by the latter." But Israel's strength and Palestinian weakness are facts of life that bave to be faced. Under these conditions the kind of agreement that Edward Said would like to see is simply unattainable. It is Gaklava in the sky. Holding out for all or nothing has left the Palestinians with nothing. Rejecting compromise proposals has not served the Palestinian cause in the past and it is unlikely to do A third objection to the

Rabin-Arafat deal is that it leaves unresolved vital questions such as the Palestinian right of return, the eventual borders of the Palestinian entity, the future of the Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza and the status of Jerusalem. But the deal is silent on all these highly sensitive issues for good reason: Had they been tackled, there would have been no deal. The right way forward is surely to concentrate on areas of agreement rather than disagreement and to leave the most difficult problems to the end. Such an approach involves a clear element of risk but nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Finally, the Gaza-jericho plan is denounced because it carries no promise, let alone a guarantee, of a Palestinian state at the end of the five-year period of interim self-rule. But an Israeli agreement today to an independent Palestinian state is utterly beyond the bounds of the possible. The Israelis did not receive their state on a silver platter, nor will the Palestinians. Their best hope is that success in implementing self-rule in Gaza and Jericho will generate the momentum which will eventually carry them to full independence and statehood. There are no short-cuts.

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The dangers of 'greater Jerusalem'

By Colleen Siegel Reuter

BEIT JALAH, West Bank -Israeli builders are blasting their way through hills of the occupied West Bank. The Jewish state is creating "greater" jerusalem for its people while it tries to sort out a peace deal Organisation (PLO).

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promises to swap occupied land for peace. But he says Israel will never surrender an inch of Jerusalem, the world's most fought over city. For what he calls security reasons, he insists on keeping a swathe of land around it: Greater Jerusalem.

Palestinians want the West Bank, Arab East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, all captured by Israel in the 1967 war, for a future independent state.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, chief engineer of the peace deal, has questioned the wisdom of maintaining certain Jewish settlements in the occupied territories when Palestinian self-rule, which has been delayed by disputes over security, begins.

Other cabinet ministers are also talking openly about what was unthinkable only a few months ago: uprooting settlements in Gaza. The most vociferous opponents of Mr. Rabin's peace efforts are among Israel's 120,000 settlers. Rita Doqmaq says her Arab town of Beit Jalah, on a hilltop south of Jerusalem, shakes as a traffic tunnel is bored under it aimed at a cluster of Jewish settlements called Gush Etzion.

"It's like bombs," she complains.

Israel is developing more than 100 square km of occupied land even as it negotiates a first-phase pullout in the Gaza Strip and town of Jericho.

East Jerusalem is home to 150,000 Jewish settlers. Almost half the more tban 100,000 Jewish settlers elsewhere in the West Bank already live in "Greater Jerusalem.

Mr. Rabin's government wants more before negotiations begin on the final status of the occupied territories two

"In East and greater Jeru-

salem, we are building about

15,000 housing units," said

Housing Ministry Spokesman

units begun under the previous

government which Mr. Rabin

This is on top of some 13.500

Amit Dobkin.

Mr. Dobkin denies there is a contradiction. "The government of Israel is

first obligated to the peace process. There are no secrets... and there is no megalomaniac building. There is one central important thing, and that is strengthening Jerusalem, Mr. Dobkio said.

Jerusalem's Faisal Al Husseini call the construction an obstacle to peace. They consider East Jerusalem as capital of a future state.

Mr. Dobkin said the government regarded Maale Adumim, the biggest Jewish settlement six km to the east of the city, and Givat Zeev, the same distance to the north, as part of

"greater Jerusalem." He said Gush Etzion. - 12

km to the south and separated

from the city by the Arab town

of Bethlehem. - had never

been explicitly mentioned as

But another government

official said: "There is a special

affection for Gush Etzion."

part of " greater Jerusalem."

Givat Zeev and Gush Etzion command sweeping views westward to the sea. Maale Adumim dominates a ridge overlooking Jordan to the east.

Borders could undulate to leave out most of about 100.000 Palestinians living around the large Jewish en-

LETTERS

The implications of violence

To the Editor:

Menachem Begin after he con-

cluded the Camp David

accords with President Anwar

Sadat of Egypt in 1978. But

Mr. Begin's autonomy plan ap-

plied only to people, not to

territory. His government, like

that of Yitzhak Shamir, was

stannchly opposed to trading

land for peace on the West

Bank. By contrast, the Labour

Party, of which Yitzhak Rabin

is the leader, has been commit-

ted to territorial compromise

over the West Bank ever since

1967. Its approach to the West

Bank is governed by considera-

tions of security rather than of

ideology. Provided Israel's

security is not threatened. Mr.

Rabin's government can be ex-

pected to extend the geog-

rapplical scope and powers of

the new Palestinian authority.

the deal is that it was made

between the strong and the

weak and is therefore bound to

serve the interests of the

strong. As Edward Said put it

in The Guardian on Sept. 9:

"All secret deals between a

A second argument against

READING THE news about the male parliamentarian who attempted to hit our female representative in Parliament enraged me not becausé it was a clear act of violence. Du because it brought to my mind vivid memories of women telling me about acts of violence committed by males against them; reports by scholars on wife battering; and memories of my lawyer friends telling me about the difficulties encountered by women in prosecuting battering cases (and other sorts of violence against women).

In our society, violence against women occurs with shocking frequency. In the broadest sense, violence against women is any violation of a women's personhood, mental or physical integrity or freedom of movement. It includes all the ways society objectifies and oppresses women. Every form of violence threatens women with physical or psychological violation and limits our ability to make choices about our lives. Although factual information is hard to obtain, every day we see real and imagined violence against women in the news (i.e. honour killing), on television, in movies, etc., and in many cases it is presented as a fact of life. In the catalogue of abuse against women, battering is the most comon and least reported crime. Battering happens to women of every age, profession

Secondly, what enrages us all as advocates of democratisation about the incident in Parliament, is the effort to hamper the freedom of speech and expression; the effort to uphold restrictive provisions which we, as citizens, sought to revoke: and the effort to incite ethnic and sectarian division in a society which has been immune to schisms. What is more, is that these encroachments against freedom of expression came not from an ordinary person, but from someone we chose as our representative. A member of Parliament who by definition should embody the ideals of respect for human rights, for the freedom of expression and for civil liberties in general.

Therefore, we should reject the efforts being made to make Ms. Faissal "bury her grievance." I am not inciting trouble here, but merely noting that not only Ms. Faissal, but many others have had similar experiences of being silenced, challenged, patronised or told that their problems are insignificant. In the face of such inexcusable treatment, we must remember that no human being deserves to be verbally abused, discriminated against, silenced or beaten, especially in parliament, the embodiment of all freedoms.

Many years ago, most forms of abuse of freedom were hidden under a cloak of silence or tacit acceptance. We applaud Ms. Faissal for saying no to violence, for saying no to autocratic methods and for fighting back. The threat of violence continues to keep us from stepping out from behind traditional roles and boundaries. It literally "keeps us in our

Finally, what enrages me more in the case of Ms. Faissal is the discourse in our society about the incident. Some say that it is the strong character of the female deputy which led to such treatment against her, that she "brought it on to herself in some way." We as free thinkers should not feel guilty about violence done to us because society tells us that we caused it a clear case of "blaming the victim."

Feeling guilty discourages us from fighting back. And in the case of Ms. Faissal, women are not guilty for violence committed by men on their body, mind and spirit, This violence happens because of men's greater power and their misuse of that power. No reason should justify male violence or violence by anybody. The fact that this is a single incident is not the point. The fact that so many men feel entitled to express their frustration or anger by being violent to so many women illustrates the power men, as a group, hold over women as a group. In this distorted way, even the most powerless men benefit from sexism.

Taking Ms. Faissal's case to the court may seem small, but it is a big step for us. With a long history of suppression of freedoms (in the broadest sense), advocates of democratisation should take action as a group. In raising this issue and others (such as the citizenship law, freedom of speech, liberalisation in all spheres), we encourage our female deputy to speak up.

Abla Amawi, Ph.D.

allowed to be completed in The settlement was estab-Jerusalem, the West Bank, the lished in 1943. It fell during the Gaza Strip and the Golan first Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Heights - after he took office The founders' children re-Russia, sidelined on Bosnia,

What sort of peace allowed Israel to

tunnel under (Beit Jalah) with impunity

Palestinian school principal.

By Christopher Boian Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — Russia, stung by its failure to block NATO's threat to use force against Bosnian Serbs. now faces a crucial policy challenge of averting a serious rift with the West without seeming to buckle under fear of international isolation.

While Moscow remains officially opposed to the NATO move, analysts and diplomats say Russian policymakers are far more concerned about being cut out of the debate entirely and are not prepared for a diplomatic clash with the West over Bosnia.

"The Russians have not completely stopped their line" opposing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) ultimatum calling on Bosnia's Serbs to withdraw heavy weapons from around Sarajevo by Feb. 21 or face air strikes. a western diplomat said Satur-

"They are impatient, very worned, but not in confrontation." said the diplomat. speaking on condition he not

be named. "Their main worry is of being sidelined.

That view seemed to gain credence Saturday as Russia submitted to four western countries at the United Nations in New York a draft resolution that virtually mirrors the NATO decision and which the four countries described as redundant.

But despite that move there were clear signs that Russia. while tempering its opposition to the threat of NATO air strikes in Bosnia. was not prepared to endorse fully the Atlantic alliance's plans and would probably seek a middle ground.

In a telephone conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton on Friday. Russian President Boris Yeltsin reiterated Moscow's view that only the United Nations - not NATO - should be empowered to make decisions on "all issues"

regarding the crisis in Bosnia. A U.N. Security Council discussion of the issue had been scheduled for Friday but was postponed until Monday due to heavy snow in New York.

Ultimately at issue for Russian diplomacy is the need to find a workable balance between standing up for the geopolitical interests Moscow claims to have in the Balkans while not alienating western states crucial to Russia's economic recovery.

Russia's dismay at being effectively excluded from the latest moves on Bosnia were summarised by First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly Adamishin in an interview published Saturday by the Italian daily Corriere Della Sera.

"Russia exists and should not be treated like this!" Mr. Adamishin said.

For the past 18 months, diplomats led by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev have been reluctant to single out any one party to the conflict in Bosnia as a target for military action and have stressed Russia's close historical ties to Serbs.

They have also warned that anti-western sentiment. already on the risc in Russia. would be fanned by Russian ultranationalists who would use any agreement by Moscow

nect it to Jerusalem. Joseph Alpher, head of Israel's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, said it made

established it immediately af-

road under Beit Jalab will con-

The multi-million dollar

ter the 1967 war.

strategic sense to annex Gush Etzion, Givat Zeev and Maale Adumim in a final peace deal.

Israel above and below Jerusalem making a corridor from the coast to the city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians. Annexation would widen the

In addition, the areas of

Mr. Alpher added annexation would also ease the "settlements issue by including within Israel's boundaries on a very small portion of land a very large proportion of set-tlers." Evacuation and compensation problems would be reduced by half, he said.

But Solomon Nour, a Beit Jalah school principal, wondered what sort of peace allowed Israelis to tunnel under his town with impunity. "They don't ask," he said. "They just do it. Nothing bas

anxious to avoid further isolation to join in actions against Bosnian Serbs to argue the government was beholden to western

> Most analysts however agree that while the voice of extreme nationalists in Russia. led by Vladimir Zhirinovsky. cannot be discounted, it is not a voice that has a direct or major impact on Moscow's foreign policy and is rapidly losing its "shock value" in western capitals.

> The tionalist dimension is not cruci. I to the policy" on Bosnia, the valern diplomat said. "People in the street are not impassioned by the debate on the crisis. On Friday the Lower House

of the Russian Parliament rejected a proposal from a member of Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party to send a fact-finding team to Bosnia.

The rejection was viewed by some observers as an indication of Moscow's unwillingness to take a confrontational stand against the West amid current developments surrounding the

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(Continued from page 1)

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It is Gaklars in this meeting iding one state we were able to merge ding out for all that we were able to merge that we were able to merge that we were able to merge the primary objectives, practicularly the primary objectives and the important nothing Releging a solutions and the important proposals has to pressing issues which require it is unlikely to a solution and the important proposals has to pressing issues which require it is unlikely to a solution and the important proposals has to pressing issues which require it is unlikely to a solution. Anami said Tuesday's

objection to the deal is that a meeting concentrated on finding as the palesting a "practical mechanism" or coordination which would have clear agendas, specific with set meeting te Palesting committees with set meeting

ie Palestinian en on the West Ban and the status of the deal was begun to change from a But the deal s a las begun to change from a these hints hese highly sent gality and a conviction to for good tease practical application on the sen tackled, her ground which will touch the been no deal he merests of both the Palestion area of the mans and Jordanians," Dr. on areas of age. Anam told reporters.

than disagreement the most difficient the end continue the issue of grade. the end. Such cluding the issue of rrade, volves a clear the security and borders.

ng gained work of the committee en-"We agreed to mobilise the the Gaza-Jench musted with regulating the ounced because movement of people across the romise, let alone, torders and to ensure thar of a Palestine opening bridges will be in the erim self-rule by movement towards their bome other than a process of emptying the land of its people," Dr. Anani said. Dr. Anani also said that there was agreement to acti-

vate two committees to discuss the status of Jerusalem and refugees "so that we can agree on the framework to deal with these sensitive subjects."

"For the Palestinian side. negotiations over these two issues has been relegated to the final-status talks, but we can coordinare our positions now within the negotiations process in a manner which would guarantee the Palestinian and Arab people rheir rights," Dr. Anani added.

Mr. Abed Rabbo said rbar discussions would also consider forming a Jordanian-Palesrinian-Egyptian-Israeli committee to discuss the displaced Palestinians of 1967 which is a fundamental problem" and other issues related to the interim period of self-

Tuesday's discussions, Mr. Abed Rabbo said, also dealt with the subject of banks and monetary and trade issues which are directly connected ro

the economic coordination. 'Discussion of these issues will help us to move forward in negotiations with coordinated positions and implement the agreed upon points immediateon the ground," Mr. Abed Rabbo said.

The delegations met again Tuesday evening and discussions were continuing late inro

Rifai secures seat; Badran quits

how the country should be me and on foreign policy,' one of the sources said. Between them, Mr. Rifai and statehood and Mr. Badran alternated as head of governments in the Kingdom for 18 years (1973-

"There has to be more adjustability to the presence of political rivals if the work of the Senate is to continue, said one senator, levelling micism at Mr. Badran.

He added that the Senate's time had been taken up by the details of appointments to Senate committees and other Senato-related positions at the expense of regular work.

The election of Mr. Rifai to replace Mr. Talhouni, his father-in-law, had become the focus of a parliamentary debate, with some members saying that it would further strengthen his chances to complete his political com-

According to senators and well-informed sources, the Senate had been divided into two camps on the selection of Mr. Rifai for the job: One in

support of Mr. Rifai and the other which supported the choice of either Ahmad Obeidat or former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Salem Mas-

The sources maintained that Mr. Rifai enjoyed a clear majority support over Mr. Obeidat and Mr. Massadeb. His supporters, in fact, had asked that the choice of candidate be put to vote in Tuesday's session because they felt sure of the result.

However, Senate tradition has been that decisions similar to this one are made in the corridors and not put to a vote in a Senate session.

According to the Senate sources, there were preliminary meetings among senarors to reach a consensus for a Talhouni successor in the influential council and that Mr. Rifai was able to win support from neutral members in his presentation of arguments for wanting the post.

"He manoeuvres well and was able to gain the support of those who were neutral among the senarors," said a senator who asked for anony-

Suspects admit complicity

(Continued from page 1) Monday that Mr. Shaaban had

mormed her of his plans to kill Mr. Maaytah. Ms. Yousef is being held in

protective custody. Mr. Shaaban has claimed be is innocent of any involvement in the assassination. He told interrogators Monday that he was shopping for a car in the eastern Bekaa Valley at the

time of the shooting. King Hussein said Sunday that Mr. Manytah's killers had sceived their orders from heir leaders based in an Arab country he did not name. He only described the country as the known base of the leader of the group which executed the

Abu Nidal is believed to be hiding in Libya, and sources, who also demanded anonymity, said the King was referring to that country.

Libya has denied involvement.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, split from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in 1973. He has since ropped the wanted lists in a number of Arab countries as well as Europe and the United States for attacks that have left scores of civilians and diplomats dead.

Abu Nidal is held responsible for twin attacks on Rome and Vienna airports on Dec. 27, 1985, which killed 17 civilians and wonnded scores

Bilaterals resume with status quo

(Continued from page I)

in its public statements, Syria has continued to demand that Israel fully withdraw from the Golan Heights seized in 1967 and "annexed" in 1981. Imel, on the other hand, has fefused without security guarantees from Syria. Privately, U.S. officials say

they have done all they can ro help Syria agree to normalised relations with Israel, especially pointing to the Geneva summit between President Bill Clinton and Syrian leader Hafez Al

But the recent death of Mr. Assad's son and heir, Basel, has created additional difficulbes for the Syrian leader. State Department officials

say privately that Secretary of State Warren Christopher is planning to return to the Middle East in late March to sound out the Syrian government oo

its intentions. Damascus Radio accused Israel Tuesday of "blackmailing" in the negotiations.

"Washington bilateral talks resume today amid growing Israeli manoeuvre to turn around the basis of a just and comprehensive peace,"
Damascus Radio said in a com-

It noted that Israeb Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin wants ro raise the level of Syrian-Israel contacts and has also proposed a referendum ro ler Israeli citizens decide whether to give up the Golan to Syria.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said over the weekend that the Washington talks between Syrian and Israeli negotiators sbould be expanded with higher level contacts, preferably a summit between Mr. Assad and Mr. Rabin.

Damascus radio suggested such a summit would necessitate secret preparatory contacts like those between Israel and the PLO prior to their

Sept. 13 accord. The policy of secret negotiations is futile and an Israeli means of blackmailing," the radio said, adding that the Palestinians have so far only reaped "bitter fruits and disappointment."

Nature's spectacular fight back

SYDNEY - People are packng tours here to sec nature fight back in Australia's oldest national park, reduced to a charred landscape by devastating bush fires five weeks ago.

Fires, believed by officials to be deliberately started, swept through 95 per cent of the 15,000 hectare (37,000 aere) Royal National Park as hush fires elsewhere killed four people, fnjured hundreds and des-The New South Wales author-

ities said the fires were the worst for two centuries. But the Australian bush has been surviving ordeal hy fire for millenia.

"Its a case of adapt or die." said park ranger Susan Aston as she shepherded two dozen visitors on a regeneration tour. Nature's fight back is spectaeular, In many places delicate green ferns and grass-trees rise knee high above the ground's black crust, and the new brown-tipped shoots of the dwarf apple are every-

"The grass-trees started growing back in two days," said Ms. Aston. The park's main trees, scribly gums and sydney red gums. looking in January are simply shedding charred bark revealing new trunks in shades of ochre and hurnt sienna.

Leaves are regrowing on limbs from epicormic huds which normally lie dormant under the bark.

"These buds are part of the trees' defence mechanism against fire. When 80 per cent of the campy is burned they produce a feather-duster type of growth which keeps the tree alive. We expect to lose only 10 per cent of the trees from the blaze." Ms. Aston exin the visitors.

They have been packing \$7 tours which the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) started hecause so many people wanted to see the burnedout park where walking trails have been closed indefinitely.

"We thought rhe tour would last only two weeks hut we have been running them for a month now and they are always hooked out," Ms. Aston The fire was terrible, she

ideal environment for new growth. Botanists say this growth could include orchids not seen

said, but it has produced an

leafless, blackened and doadfor more than 80 years.



An Australian man watches as a firestorm approaches his property in Sydney. The burnt woods are now attracting hundreds of visitors (AFP photo)

Shrubs in the extensive heathland areas were killed in the blaze but most have seeds protected by hard pods.

The fire causes a chemical reaction which eventually opens the pods allowing reseeding to take place." said Ms. Aston.

"We have impressed on atl the visitors that everything is nor devastation — this is a

really fascinating time," said ranger Andrew Harrigan. Because of all the seeds and shoots for some of the animals now is a real feast," he

Among animals feasting on the new growth are 150 rusa deer which are proving so harmful to the park's regenerarion that they are to be rounded up, tranquilised and killed.

Apart from muching away at new shoots, the deer are breaking the crust which protects seeds and heavy rain last week washed away a vast num-

A small number of rusa, a native of Southeast Asia, were brought in around 1900. They multiplied and now compete with wallabies and other native

ber of seeds, the NPWS says.

animals for food.

NPWS spokesman Stuart Cohen said the service "had to decide whether we want a national park or a deer farm and now was probably one of the most crucial times" in the history of the park which was established in 1879.

Agence France_Presse

Classrooms caught in the crossfire of guntoting youths

By Karen Lowe Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON - Armed youths in U.S. schools are becoming more common, bolder and younger and classrooms are increasingly getting caught in the crossfire.

At least 2.5 million tecna gers carry guns, knives and razors and 42 per cent of them have taken them to school in the past 30 days, according to a 1991 Centres for Disease Control (CDC) survey, the larest

available. "A lot of people are afraid of going to school, of being in school and going home from school," said George Butterfield, the deputy director of the National School Safety Centre.

Disputes over snubs, wearing rival gangs' colours, srepping into the wrong turf or even unsolicited looks that were once settled behind the school with epithers or fists are now drawing gunfire in school

Last month, a student entered a chemistry classroom at Dunbar High School in Washington, asked the reacher if he could use the pencil sharpener and then pulled out a gun and fired on a student in the back row.

The bullet missed the intended rarget and the teacher ordered the panicked class of 20 students to dive for cover on the floor. Moments later, gunfire spilled outside the school building where 14 shots were fired.

Last year, a third-grader in Chicago pulled a gun our of his book bag and shot another student. In New York City, a 15-year-old shot and killed two teenagers in a school packed wirh police awaiting a specch by the mayor, Students in Cokeville. Wyoming, now have "drop-and-cover" drills.

Since 1985, the risk of being killed by firearms has increased 77 per cent for teenagers aged 15 to 19, the CDC said. In Washington, 83 of \$7 teenagers killed last year were homicide victims - three times rhe national average.

Harvard psychologist Alvin Poussaint said what happens at home and on the streets will inevitably determine what occurs in the classroom and Washington's statistical profile partly explains the violence. Israel, PLO near agreement

home Fifty-five per cent of the

A child here has a higher probability of dying before age 15 than in any of the 50 states. Those conditions breed fruskind of hyper-vigilance. Even small acts, often unintentional, that are interpreted as disre-

children here have only one

parent and 17 per cent of those

are teenage mothers and half

of the children live in poverty.

speciful can creare violent reactions, Mr. Poussaint said. There are certain kids you don't even look ar... because that becomes a provocation.

Mr. Poussaint said. Tanika Seaborn, 17, of the School Wirhout Walls, said of the 33 children she atrended sixth grade with in Washington schools, only three are still alive. "Every one of rhem died from a bullet,"

Many of those were killed four years ago at a party, she said, when a boy who was rejected by a girl returned with gun and picked off partygoers.

Shani Jones, 15, of Beniamin Banneker High School. said most yourhs her age believe they will not live past 25 and that the key ro safety is knowing which students ro avoid and what boundaries not to cross.

"But if you're beefing with somebody you might carry a gun or a knife for protection. ro make sure you don't ger hurt." she said. Some schools in Oakland,

California, New York City and Detroit have banned expensive clothing and jewlery, believing rhar fights are caused by disparities in income among students or symbols of gang affi-

Roaming gangs around Los Angeles' freeways have assaulted teenagers wearing opposing gang colours, such as blue for The Crips and the red for The Bloods.

To stop students from carrying weapons, many school systems across the country. especially in urban areas, have installed metal detectors and instituted random student sear-

"We have to assure these children," said George Greer, a researcher with Kids Count in Washington, "that they are safer in school than they are in the streets.

Bosnian refugees long for

By P. Parameswaran Agence France Presse

BANGI. Malaysia - The sound of heavy artillery in Sarajevo reverberates here in Southeast Asia's only refugee camp for Bosnian Muslims. although the war takes place far away in the former Yugoslav republic.

of miles away from the fighring, we toss and rurn every nighr haunted by machine-gun fire and suffering of our loved ones in Bosnia-Herzegovina. said refugee Ermina Mujadzic. her eyes welling with tears.

Plucked to safety from the government hospital where she worked in Travnik in central Bosnia, rhe 30-year-old medical assistant is among 300 Bosnian Muslims in the refugee centres at Bangi and its surrounding area, south of Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur. "We pray the war will srop

because we want to go home. There is no inner peace here.' said Ms. Mujadzic, who lives in a block of sparsely furnished, two-room flars reserved for refugees comprising women and ehildren. Her male compatriots, most of them ex-Serbian concentra-

tion camp victims, and their wives stay in a block of flats in nearby Serdang rown. The refugees were brought here by the Malaysian Muslim Youth Movement (ABIM), a non-governmental organisation, in October 1992 in re-

sion to give humanirarian aid to the besieged Bosnian Mus-Predominantly Muslim, Malaysia, which is also the: only Southeast Asian country. to station peacekeeping troops in Sarajevo, has been a vocal critic of Western nations for what it sees as their indecisiveness in halting the 22-month

war among Bosnian Muslims.

sponse to Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohammad's deci-

Serbs and Croats. Like Ms. Mujadzic, who works in a dispensary of the national Electricity Corporation Tenaga Nasional, the older refugees are engaged in jobs, including factory work, as part of efforts to make them sell-reliant. The younger people among them go to school and universities.

Work and studies have kept the refugees husy and help cushion the pain they carry



A Bosnian child pours water into a cup in a refugee camp (File photo)

with them. But local newspapers plastered with news on Bosnia and television portraval of war-ravaged victims remind them of home.

"She keeps asking for her father, but it is difficult for her ro understand that he is a soldier," said refugee Edina Keniar of her seven-year-old daughter who attends government primary school. "We can only presume he is safe be-eause tetters from Bosnia are very rare.

The refugees have to send their letters to Geneva before they can be re-routed to Bosnia, officials said.

"Now that I have regained my health and strength. I am ready to go back and defend operator Dzevad Salihavic. who claimed he was beaten up and left to starve in a Serbian concentration camp before he escaped.

Mr. Salihavic said his six brothers were still beld in concentration camps when he was brought here. Last month, the refugees

had their spirits hoosted when Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic toured the camp during a four-day official visit to Malaysia. They mobbed the leader and his delegation to enquire about their families back home.

"I had never dreamed of meeting the president face-toface, not even when I was a soldier in Sarajevo." said Fahruddin Krelecevics, 25. who has been on crutches ever

since he was shot in the spine hy Serb soldiers.

ABIM Vice President Mohammad Anuar Tahir said the accommodation costs of the refugees would continue to be borne by his organisation until they were able to support themselves. ABIM, which runs a similar shelter for the wounded and homeless in Bosnia, also provides monthly subsidies to the refugees.

"This is our small contribution to world peace and our appreciation to the Mulaysian government efforts to seek justice for the oppressed," said the ABIM official. The Malaysian Muslim Welfare Organisation (PERKIM). helps ABIM run the refugee

Bosnia," said former forklift Serbs defy NATO ultimatum

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 1) The Palestinians have said implemented on the ground," that a final agreement will not

he told Israel radio. After concluding talks on the police, Taba delegates have said they will address the release of thousands of Palestinian detainees in Israeli prisons. Palestinians say there are

14,000, but Israel puts the number at half that.

be signed until there is an Rasim Delic who had been due agenda scheduling the release to attend the meeting failed to of Palestinian prisoners, in-In Brussels NATO sources cluding those belonging to organisations that oppose the said the head of the alliance's peace process. forces in Europe was to meet

Sarajevo.

with the U.N. special envoy to former Yugoslavia this week to discuss differences over en-Muslim commander General forcement of the ultimatum, as signs emerged that NATO was

> plans to monitor the Serb artillery around the city. The White House said it was

becoming increasingly critical

of apparently inadequate U.N.

studying the manner in which U.N. forces are placing heavy weapons under supervision in Sarajevo.

NATO sources have criticised U.N. peacekeepers for allowing Serb forces to put heavy guns under "observation" rather than handing them over to full U.N. control.

Faisal to press her case

(Continued from page 1) and Parliament should be taken seriously."

Ms. Faisal admitted that she doubts whether she could muster the required two-third vote in the House to lift Mr. Khreisha's immunity. "But that will not stop from trying," she said.

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Asian exporters gain ground in Arab Gulf trade

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Japan and other Asian countries are gaining ground in a hectic race by major industrial states to grab a bigger sbare of the lucrative Arab Gulf market, official figures showed Tues-

day.
Trade figures for Dubai, the main commercial centre in the Gulf, showed Japan and China topped the list of exporters to the emirate and other Asian states boosted sales as exports by most Western countries fell.

Dubai bandles nearly one fifth of the Gulf's non-oil trade and this made it the barometre of economic activity in the region. A large part of its imports are reexported to Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

In 1993, its trade hit a record 65.3 billion dirhams (\$17.5 billion), including 50.5 billion dirhams (\$13.7 billion) worth of imports, according to figures by the government statistics

Japan topped the list of exporters to the emirate, with sales of 7.1 billion dirhams (\$1.93 billion), accounting for 14 per cent of the total improts. China came second, withexports of 4.4 billion lirbams (\$1.19 billion), accounting for 8.7 per cent of the total

"The 1993 figure for China was higher by around 13 per rent than in 1992," a Dubai trade official said. "China has made tremendous progress in entering the Gulf market. A. lew years ago, its exports to Dubai were negligible."

Most of China's exports tothe emirate were textile and lothes, which were worth 1.6billion dirhams (\$435 million), and electric appliances with a value of 915 million dirhams \$249 million).

China launched a dirve into as incentive, reward he Gulf market with the openng of a commercial centre in Dubai and the organisation of exhibitions after it established liplomatic ties with states in he region in the mid-1980s. Its trade with Gulf states had ot exceeded \$100 million a

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Japan is also one of the iggest exporters to the sixation Gnlf Cooperation Council (GCC), with exports tanding at \$9 billion in 1992. hey include cars, watches, nd electronic and electric ap-

Viacom announces victory in bid for Paramount

NEW YORK (R) — Viacom Inc. said Tuesday it won the bidding war for Paramount Communications, collecting almost 75 of Paramount stock with its tender offer and ending one of the biggest corporate takeover battles since the

Viacom said stockholders of New York-based Paramount, which owns Paramount Pictures, Simon and Schuster Publishers, the New York Kincks basketball team and the New York Rangers bockey team, had tendered 91.7 million shares of stock by the midnight Monday (0500 GMT) deadline, representing 74.6 per cent of the outstanding shares. Only 50.1 per cent of the stock was needed for a victory. Viacom also said in a statement that its rival for Parafrount, OVC Network, is rei nired to end its competing bid is soon as it receives official trord of the successful Viacom

"We remain resolute in our intentions and unwavering in our conviction that the combination of Viacom. Paramount and Blockbuster will create a global media powerhouse of unparalleled proportions in the entertainment industry," said Snmner Redstone, chairman of · Viacom. "Today is the beginning of the creation of this vast new enter-

Viacom has also agreed to merge with Blockbuster Entertainment. a Fort Lauderdale, Florida-based video retailer whose stores are well knwon across the country.

On Sunday rival Paramount bidder QVC, a Wester Chester, Pennsylvania-based television shopping channel company, said it would not raise its QVC Chairman Barry Diller

had been said to be considering

obtained enough shares to win

a new bid if neither company

Monday. Analysts and takeover stock specialists bad predicted Viacom would receive the necessary Paramount stock to declare victory. Viacom, a Dedbam, Massachusetts-based cable television and broadcast company, bid a combination of casb and stock valued by analysts as worth at least \$9.5

OVC's final bid, also cash and stock, was valued at a minimum of \$8.9 billion.

Arbitragers, who controlled 30-50 per cent of Paramount stock, said they favoured the Viacom bid because it offered more cash and promised to protect the value of Viacom stock in the deal.

The expiration of the offers followed a week of dramatic

activity in which QVC seemed to be trying to find a way to improve its bid for Paramount and prevent defeat.

QVC's statement Sunday was regarded by many as a concession, although it continued to maintain it had the hetter bid.

As late as midday Monday, QVC asked Paramount's board to reconsider its recommendation in favour of the Viacom offer, on the basis of declines in value of Viacom's stock price, which were due to growing perceptions it would

Paramount rejected the request-for reconsideration.

Arab farming sector hit by pollution and lack of funds

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab countries bave enough arable land to feed their people but pollution and lack of investments in the farm sector make them heavily dependent on imported food, according to a regional study.

Around 200 million hectares could be cultivated in the Arab region but only 50 million heetares are being exploited, said the study, published in the latest issue of the United Arab Emirates oil ministry maga-

With a population growth of nearly three per cent a year, the food gap has steadlily wide-ned over the past two decades and is expected to worsen unless Arab governments take measures to expand their farming sector. Between 1980 and 1990, the

cumulative Arab food import bill reached around \$190 billion while nearly \$46 billion worth of farm equipment were also imported during the same period, the study said.

"The exacerbation of the food problem in the Arab World is attributed to desertification and malpractices by Arab people, including pollution, using improper irrigation systems, failure to fully exploit arable areas, and a construction onslanght on cultivated land," it said. "The problem is" aggravating every day as the population is growing fast and investments in the agricultural sector are insufficient."

Experts said the Arab food

gap, the differnces between imports and exports, continued to increase after 1990, reaching around \$22 billion a year. EC

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Nearly 40 per cent of the gap exists in the oil-rieb Gulf states, which depend more on food imports given their and desert and scarse rain. A three to four per cent growth in the population of the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) has nearly doubled their food gap to \$9 billion a year. Experts believe the Arab

food problem could be tackled through adopting better farming pobcies and investments by GCC states in farming in fertile Arab countries. But they stress Arabs must first end their political differences and create a right investment atmosphere.
"You cannot expect Saudi

Arabia to invest in such a vital sector in Iraq for example given their political dispute." one expert said.

Iraq is also suffering from a United Nations embargo while other fertile states in the region have their own problems. Sudan, dubbed the Arab food basket, is rocked by civil hostilities, Lebanon is still recovering from its 15-year civil war and Syria remains technically at war with Israel.

Somalia was hit with famine due to the conflict there although it bad the biggest number of cattle in the Arab World. Other fertile nations. like Tunisia and Morocco are suffering from a shortage of

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 1994 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Carefully go over reports and statements to make certain they are accurate, before you attempt to draw logical conclusions from these financial papers. Who exactly is standing behind them?

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You are able to get the support you need for important projects from good friends who have the means. Then get busy at those tasks ahead of you and complete them quickly.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Contact individuals who will help you make your property more how to add to present income appreciably in an ethical fashion. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) If you talk over some problem with

person who thinks differently from you, you find you can solve it quickly. Kin will help you with some task that is most boning for MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 10 July 21) If you waste too much

time just worrying about a prob-lem, you accomplish very linle. so toss it aside for now and tomorrow the right solution comes to you. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Talk

over that new project with a friend and then see about getting the financial backing you need for it. Forget social life tonight, since little or nothing would come of it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study that public problem well before you try to handle

DOWN

it. Show you are not a superficial persons. Others are depending on you to get some work done, do it without fail and do it well.

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LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You have inspired ideas how to put new life into old projects that will make them successful instead of discouraging failures. Information from one overseas can be helpful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Plans must be well worked out if you want to handle Our responsibilities satisfactori y today. Don't rely on advisors Since they are busy.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Pay anention to the ideas of an associate and do not look for bigwigs to do more for you than you have a right to

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Ideal day to attend to tasks that only you can handle properly and do so in a clever and ingenious way. Expressing some particular talent you have is also good.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A romantic interest has some rather strange ideas today, so smile them away and do not break up the relationship. Tomorrow they will be forgot-

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You had bener cooperate with what family has in mind or you can certainly be the loser, as well as they. Ridding yourself of the cause of tensions at home is

Romanian unions plan general strike

BUCHAREST (R) — Romanian trade unions, flexing their muscles in the biggest showdown with government since the 1989 revolution, are planning a general strike aimed at ousting Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroin for bungling econo-

mie reforms. The ex-communist Balkan country's three main trade union blocs are uniting for the first time on a national scale with plans to cripple the economy through stoppages on Feb. 28.

The leading daily newspaper Evenimentul Zilei said the general strike plan was a "declaration of war against the regime" and that the government would come out fighting "with its entire arsenal. Labour unrest has grown

steadily among the 23 million Romanians, fuelled by 300 per cent inflation and low pay, since the one-party communist state collapsed in December 1989. But the three big unions say

a half-harted and baphazard approach to free-market reform is the cause of economic Since Mr. Vacaroju took office following bung elections 18 months ago, the economy has been a mess, foreign credi-

tors have stopped lending cash

to Romania and privatisation

slowed to a anail's pace. Police said eight people froze to death during a cold snap in Bucharest this week as homes were bit by gas and power cuts, which were blamed on the freeze but which

are an annual event due to bad

mangement of state-owned uti-

The Alfa, CNSRL-Fratia and NUB union movements claiming over 5.2 million workers - most of the state sector industrial work force - have urged Mr. Vacaroin and his minority left-wing cabinet to resign by March and make way for a broader and more expert coalition, possibly including

trade unionists. Warning strikes in mining, farming and transport are already stoking the fires of confrontation between the merging trade union movement and the government.

Railway repair workers stoned the transport ministry and clashed with riot police in Bucharest last Friday in a dispute over delayed wage payments and inter-enterprise

Coalminers in the western Jin Valley coalfields began a strike on Monday. Although Industry Minister Dumitru Popescu said only 2,000 pitmen had joined it, several bundred militants forcibly occupied

and other key reforms have Clinton raises aid to Kazakhs

WASHINGTON (R) - President Clinton Monday pledged \$396 million in new U.S. economic assistance to Kazakhstan to help the former Soviet republic move to a market economy and dismantle nuc-

lear weapons. Mr. Clinton, at a news conference with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, promised the aid after Mr. Nazarbayev presented him with papers documenting Kazakhstan's decision in December to join the nuclear

non-proliferation treaty.

Declaring a "bright new era" in U.S.-Kazakh relations, Mr. Clinton raised to \$311 million this year from \$91 million last year the economic assistance to Kazakhstan to help the country's transition to

a market economy. And he said he was prepared to extend another \$85 million this year and in 1995 to help Kazakhstan dismantle a nuclear arsenal left on its territory after the collapse of the Soviet empire two years ago.

Dollar hits six-month low in Tokyo

Japan says U.S. trade sanctions would kill dialogue

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan warned the United States Tuesday that American sanctions would mean an end to dialogue on resolving their bilateral trade row and proposed a fresb summit to straighten

things out. The failure of Friday's summit between Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton has sent the dollar tailspinning along with prices of Tokyo stocks.

Economists warned the market turmoil could dash hopes for Japan's early recovery from recession.

As Tokyo struggled to cope with the twin falls, the top government spokesman reacted sharply to U.S. talk of imposing sanctions over allegations that Japan kept it cellular phone markets unfairly closed. This is the first specific issue to emerge since Friday's trade talks breakdown.

"We bave no formal report of this talk on sanctions (on cellular phones)," chief cabinet secretary Masayoshl Takemura told a news conference.

"But sanctions would mean an end to discussion. We hope the Americans will take a commonsense approach," Mr. Takemura said.

In Washington, U.S. government officials said the Clinton administration was expected to rule that Japan violated a deal on the telephones but denied it would impose sanctions.

The New York Times, however, reported the U.S. government bad already decided to initiate sanctions.

It was unclear whether this meant Washington would immediately impose sanctions or whether this was merely the start of a process leading to

punitive measures. "Talk of sanctions should come at the very, very, very

is seriously trying to do all it can." Mr. Takemura said.

Mr. Hosokawa instructed government ministries Tuesday to draw up a set of emergency market-opening measures to placate the angry Americans, Mr. Takemura

Mr. Takemura said the direction of such new measures would be decided as soon as the rest of the Japanese sum-mit team, still in Washington, returned home later this week. The chief strategist in Mr.

Hosokawa's coalition, Ichiro Ozawa, called for a fresh summit, the Jiji News Agency re-"It should be resolved as

soon as possible in a dialogue (between Clinton and Hosokawa)," Mr. Osawa told repor-"As a result of the Japan-U.S. summit talks, the yen has

risen (and if the situation remains unchanged) the exportled Japanese economy will suffer big damage," Mr. Ozawa said. In last week's Washington

talks, Mr. Hosokawa rejected U.S. demands to set "numerical targets" in specific trade sectors to measure how well the Japan kept its marketopening promises.

A leading Japanese banker said the idea of numerical targets was off the mark and would not resolve the problem.

Toyoo Gyoten, Bank of Tokyo chairman and former top finance ministry bureaucrat, said: "What the negotiators were discussing at the table (in Washington) was a rather marginal increment of American export to the

Japanese market... During the past 20 to 30 years, he said, the growing trade gap had not been ehecked by the dollar's fall from 360 yen to almost 100 yen or by

in America. "There should be more transfer of productive capacity from Japan to the United

numerous market-opening me-

asures, while Japan's domestie

demand had grown faster than

States, thereby reducing Japan's excess capacity while reducing the United States' lack of capacity." he said. The dollar closed sharply lower in heetie trading in Tokyo Tuesday at 102.02 yen

after hitting a six-month low of 101.90 yen and prompting the Bank of Japan to step in with dollar purchases. The closing rate was down 3.67 yen from the previous

day's finish of 105.69 yen and down 0.53 yen from a late Monday quote of 102.55 yen in New York. Fears were mounting that the dollar would duck below a

historic barrier of 100 yen as intervention by the Bank of Japan alone could hardly stop the yen's further advance. Mr. Hosokawa, leading a chorus of worries by Japanese

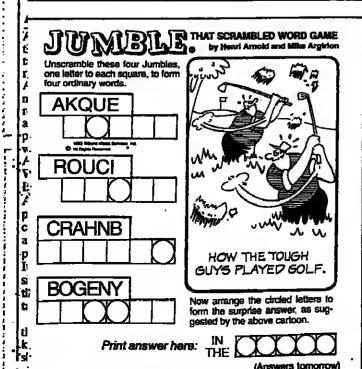
government leaders, told reporters he was "gravely concerned" over the yen's sharp rise which followed the collapse of U.S.-Japan trade talks in Washington. Finance Minister Hirohisa

Fujii said the foreign exchange market had been marked with 'speculative moves" which would be "undesirable for the world economy." "We will respond in a timely and appropriate manner," he said, indicating further intervention by the central bank.

Manae Kubota, the state minister for economie planning, said the yen's sharp rise would "put a damper on the private sector's enthusiasm" after the government annonnced a massive economie package last week to stimulate consumer and capital spend-

THE BETTER HALF, **By Glasbergen** GLASBERGEN

"We're going out tonight and we haven't had a fight yet. It's bad luck to go out without fighting first."



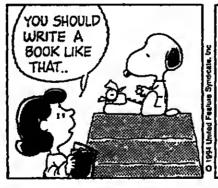
Jumbles: POUND BLOOD

Answer: What you like to hear best after dinner "I'LL BUY"

BLUISH MIDDAY

Peanuts







Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Stanley 8. Whitte 15 — Grande 16 Kazan-dire-film (1963) 19 — meter 20 Affront 21 Type of owl 22 Table scraps 24 Stags work 27 Bone: pret. 28 Adjusts 30 Extra large vitamin amou 32 Robests/Bal sam film (1970) 35 Pindaric work 36 Regret 37 Unit of work 37 Unit of work 38 Resort 41 Pacino/Carmon film (1982) 44 Humbug 47 Immerse 48 Composer Schiffin 49 Roger — film critic Yesterday's Puzzle Solved: direction 11 Embroidery 52 Kett of comics 53 Arabian prince 54 Very small; pref. 56 Football scores: abbr. 57 Andrews/Pres ton film (1982) 62 Comp. pt.

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DUBAI (R) — Yemen, a small oil producer which is trying to develop its natural gas resources, said gas reserves could be much more than 18 the differences be million cubic feet (500 billion cubic metres). Yemen's Oil is and expons, one case after 1990 les Minister Saleh Ahu Bakr Bin ease after 1990, the 1 \$22 billion a year thy 40 per cent of the in the oil-rich Hussamoun was quoted by the fondon-based Asharq Al Awsat newspaper as saying 15 million cubic feet of gas rewhich depend no mports given the serves are located in Marib and three trillion cubic feet in and scarse rain. A. Shabwah. "In addition to those t pet cent growth; ration Council ly arly doubled then \$9 hillion a year erts believe the

two fields there are other discoveries whose reserves are not yet established precisely. In any case, 1 think that gas reserves in Yemen are very large," the newspaper quoted him as saying in an interview. The newpaper quoted him as saying Yemen was discussing a programme with the U.S.'s Enron Corp. to pump about five million tonnes of gas a year to Omran, oo the coast of Aden in the former South Ye-

amman financial market

reserves at 500b m³

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Financial Markets

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H.C. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	- 2	New York 	Tokyo ***CCo3c**** *****15/2/94
Sterling Pound		1.4855	1.4635
Deutsche Mack		1.7245	1.7269
Swiss Franc		1.4550	1.4552
French Franc		 5.8720	5.8920**
Japanese Yen		102.70	102.02
European Curreny Un	nist	 1.1233	1.11974
LSD Per STG			

European Opening to 8:00 a.m. GMT

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/O2	JD/Gm
Cold	384.75	7.60	Silver	5.35	0.120

Date: 15/2/1994

Bid	Offer
0.6980	0.7000
1.0540	1.0392
0.4033	0.4053
0.4786	0.4510
0.1185	0.1191
0.6817	0.6651
0.3597	0.3615
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0.0418	0.0420
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	0.6980 1.0340 0.4033 0.4786 0.1185 0.6817 0.3597

Other Currencies	Date: 15/2/1994		
Сигтевсу	Bid	Offer	
Rebraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8480	
Lebanese Lira*	0.040450	0.041575	
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867	
Kuwaki Dinar	2.3380	2.3600	
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1905	
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200	
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8060	
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905	
Greek Drachma ²	0.2685	0.3055	
Cypriot Pound	1.3250	1.3650	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the huying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession bullion markets Tuesday.

on the London Foreign Exchange and			
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3510/20		
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One sterling

One ounce of gold

\$1.4706/16

\$383.90/384.40

Canadian dollar **Deutschemarks** Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

Fokker to slash another 1,900 jobs

AMSTERDAM (AFP) -Dutch aircraft manufacturer Fokker has announced that it was cutting 1,900 johs and slashing production to around 40 planes a year.

A company spokesman said host of the job losses would be "indirect," meaning jobs not involved directly in manufacturing,, such as administrative. supervisory and management

A restructuring plan will be discussed in the coming months with the trade unions. Employees expressed shock and called the move a "disas-

The restructuring plan should be ready by the end of the month, and will then be discussed with unions and the shop committee, the company spokesman said. He noted that the most tecent restructuring plan, announced last April, concerned 2,100 jobs but had resulted in the axing of only 1,500 positions as of last Dec.

Fokker had about 9,000 em-

ployees at that time. The firm said its hand had been forced by "even stronger competition among the constructors, the recession lasting longer than expected in the airline sector, and the poot financial results affecting those companies because of this."

tt noted that "those poor results are leading the airlines to reduce transport capacity and hold back from replacing. their old equipment. It also said that to come up

with the reductions in production costs that are now "inevitable," it will be necessary to "make manufacturing processes more efficient and more flexible, to lower the time for turning out planes." Some management positioos will be done away with "to speed up decision-making and make decisions applicable.

Talks will be held with Fokker partners and suppliers to adapt contracats to today's market prices, the firm said.

Chinese peasants surviving on less than \$20 a year

BEIJING (AFP) -- Deng Xiaoping's China may now have a host of millionaires but it also has 100 million poor, many of whom survive on less than \$20 a year, the China Youth daily said Tuesday.

Average income in 1992 for inhabitants of the small town of Qibailong, in the arid mountainous western area of the actonomous region of Guangxi, was 164 yuan (\$19), said the

Fewer than 10 per cent of families in the town had morre than \$34 to live on, said the paper which described the southern town as "one of the poorest places on earth."

About 2,000 people out of a

popolation of 16,700 have been

forced to seek work in towns

further south to avoid starva-A few days ago regional officials decided to move 200,000 people from Guangxi who hive in a state of poverty

similar to that of Qihailong.

said the report. China has between 80 and 120 million needy people. according to the latest official and World Bank statistics.

About 25 million peasants live on the threshold of poverty which is set at \$23 a year and the official press has published a series of articles recently warning that some regions were becoming poorer due to a lack of solidarity between pro-

Since China's economy began to sutge ahead in 1992, the gap between rich and coastal provinces and the poorer interior regions has become

The gap between town and country is also widening. Citizens have seen their incomes rise by around 10 per cent in 1993 while those of peasants have risen by only two per ceot. Millions of country dwellers saw their standard of living fall in the past year.

India received \$4.4 billion

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Foreign investors have committed \$4.38 hillion to projects in India since the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao opened the doors in 1991, an official statement said

Tuesday. Investment proposals worth \$2.95 billion won the government's approval in 1993 alone, the statement said, describing it as "the year of unpre-cedented response" to India's liberalisation policy.

U.S. compaoies were the top investors in 1993 with pledges worth \$1.15 billioo, followed by the British with \$207 mil-

The Sultanate of Oman emerged as the third-largest investor, committing \$180 mil-

"There has also been increase in investments from Switzerland, the United Arah

of investments since '91 Emirates, Thailand, the Netherlands, Japan, Mexico, Germany, Ireland, France, Mauritius, Italy and Hong

> ment said. Expatriate Indians pledged an additional \$3 billion last year to projects they propose to establish in the country of their birth.

Kong," the government state-

Oil refineries, power plants, food processing, metalurgy, electrical equipment, chemicals and the services sector attracted the most foreign

Actual investment flows have been a relatively modest \$881 million since New Delhi threw out an array of restrictions on foreign companies and dangled incentives.

Officials say investment will rise as projects in such timeconsuming sectors as power and oilk take shape.

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Singapore port sets new record in container units handled

SINGAPORE (AFP) - Singapore's port, the world's second busiess container terminal after Hong Kong, achieved aoother recordbreaking performance last year, according to preliminary statistics.

A Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) report said the total number of 20-foot equivalent unit (YEU) containers handled by the port exceeded nine mitlion units for the first time.

The 9.04 TEUs handled last year was about 20 per cent more than the 7.5 million TEUs bandled in the previous year. In 1991 the port handled 6.3 million TEUs, the report

Loaded containers amounted to 7.76 million units while 1.28 million TEUs were

The nine miltion mark was achieved in December with the preliminary figures for the month accounting for 830,000 units, the highest handled in a

single month in 1993. PSA expects the final figure for the month of December 1993 to be slightly bigher as the last three months of the year

are usually its busiest period. Despite its record-breaking performance in container handling, the Singapore port was still expected to finish behind the British colony, which has always edged Singapore for the top place in container car-

According to local press re-ports, Hong Kong handled 6.7 million TEUs for the first nine months of last year, a 16.2 pet cent increase over the corresponding period in 1992. Growth in the last quarter of 1993 is expected to be stronger with the colony's port finishing ahead of Singapote again.

General cargo, including containerised and conventional, handled by the port here increased to 273.7 million tonnes last year, compared ot 238.4 million tonnes in 1992.

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Palestinians set first autonomy budget at \$600m

C ^CUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The PLO has worked out a hist hudget of \$600 million to cover the running of the autonomous authority in the occupied territories this year, Palestinian economist Samir Abdaltah told AFP.

The figures, calculated on the assumption that autonomy will be launched in March, allow for a \$158 million deficit.

Some \$280 million should be raised from direct taxation, said Mr. Abdallah, a member of the Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDR) set up by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to oversee the \$2 hillion aid promised by

donor countries for the five years of autonomy.

He noted that most of the deficit should be covered by \$120 million promised by donors for administrative affairs.

"This budget does not cover infrastructure or any development projects. This will be dealt with elsewhere," he noted. PECDR advertised in Tuesday's Palestinian press to managemeot jobs for the tax and finance departments in the future authority which is to run daily life in the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank town of Jericho.

Middle East Airlines needs \$100m to survive

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's national carrier Middle East Airlines (MEA) broke even in 1993 hut needs \$100 million over the next three years to modernise its fleet and stay aloft, MEA Chairman Abdul Hamid Fakhoury said.

MEA wanted to borrow or lease three new planes this year, he told the bi-monthly Beirut business magazine Le Commetce du Mr. Fakboury said 1993 financial results were the airline's best

since 1981 and it expected a 12 per cent increase in traffic this

But costs rose 100 per cent in 1993 and MEA expected more competition as world airlines recotered the Lehanese market. The best way to reduce costs was to modernise the fleet and a decision to increase capital to do so was needed if MEA was to survive, Mr. Fakhoury said. MEA is owned by the Lebanese government, Air France and Kuwait Airlines

Mr. Fakboury said the 1992 decision of the Lebanese government to make MEA a state a monopoly indicated its intention to maintain the airline.

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S. Africa faces threat of secession

South Africa is faced with a real threat of secesion by the Kwazulu black homeland and the surrounding province of Natal after Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini's demand Monday for a sovereign kingdom, analysts said Tuesday.

• • •

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"My feeling is that this is serious," said Tom Lodge, a political science professor at the University of the Witwatersrand here. "This is not simply a threat of secession he means it.

In talks with President F.W. De Klerk in Durban Monday. King Zwelethini demanded a sovereign state with borders stretching from the Indian Ocean in the east, the Drakensberg Mountains in the West and Mozambique in the north — the Zulu kingdom as it was before Britain began conquering it in 1834.

"I am asking for something that belongs to me and my people, no one else," King Zwelethini, accompanied by Kwazulu chief minister and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, said after the meeting, as some 40,000 of his spear-wielding subjects paralysed the streets

Earlier, he told supporters at a rally that negotiations had failed to secure a just future for the Zulu nation and he had 'come to the end of the road." King Zwelethini's secession

threat is not the only one the new South Africa is facing. The white far-right Afrikan-er Volksfront (AVF) has vowed to set up its own homeland — in a territory it has yet

to define - and the

JOY SESBURG (R) —

claim .c an independent

monarchy in Natal based on

the kingdom founded there by

the Zulu warrior hero Shaka in

the 19th century is open to

dispute, according to South

King Goodwill and Man-

gosutu Buthelezi, chief minis-

ter of the Kwazulu black

homeiand, demanded of Presi-

dent F.W. De Klerk Monday

that present-day Natal pro-vince including Kwazulu be

bived off from the post-

histories and they know what really happened." Mary De

Haas, an anthropologist at the

University of Natal in Durban,

said Tuesday. "They would

certainly dispute the king's ver-

Along with right wing Afri-

kaners seeking a white home-

land, the king and Mr.

Bnthelezi have rejected an in-

"A lot of people have family

apartheid South Africa.

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African historians.

.adwill Zwelithini's

Bophuthatswana black homeland says it will refuse to be reincorporated into South Africa after all-race elections in April.

All three, grouped together in the Freedom Alliance, have rejected a new interim constitution hammered out in democracy talks and announced Saturday that they would not contest the poll.

"What the king and Buthelezi are looking for is not a federal state, but a confederal state," Mr. Lodge said.

"The government and the African National Congress (ANC) can't be completely dismissive of their claims because they are capable of doing a lot of harm," he said. "The fact that they can muster 40,000 armed men in the middle of Durban cannot be taken light-

ly."
Tony Leon of the Liberal
Democratic Party feared King Zwelethini's demand would dash hopes for a peaceful election in Natal, where the IFP and the ANC are fighting a virtual civil war that claimed nearly 2,000 lives last year

"His demand is perhaps an extreme reaction to isolation and exclusion that he and the IFP feel at this time," Mr. Leon said, "Whether it is a final or an opening bid to get reacton is unclear, but it has to be taken seriously. "It will be impossible to

have a proper election if we have a well organised section of the community preventing the process," he added.

The government is due to respond to the Zulu king's demands Thursday.

terim constitution thrashed out

in two years of democracy talks

and plan to boycott the coun-

try's first all-race elections in

argued in their submission to

Mr. De Klerk that the Zulu

kingdom had existed its crea-

tion by Sbaka, who reigned for

12 years before bis assassina-

"There was a great period of history in which our great

founding father King Shaka...

founded the mightiest kingdom

and empire the wbole of south-

ern and central Africa had ever

But Ms. De Haas said the

Zulu kingdom fell apart after

the death of Sbaka. While it

existed, its core remained in

the northern half of what is

"To say the kingdom encom-

passes all of the province is a

weak historical claim," she

An authority on Shaka at the

seen," Mr Butbelezi said.

tion in 1828.

now Natal.

The king and Mr. Buthelezi

S. African historians question Zulu claims on Natal

Kwazulu and IFP demands for self-rule under a soveriegn monarch are not new.

In 1992, Mr. Buthelezi published a secessionist constitution for Kwazulu and Natal calling for the recognition of the authority of the Zulu king.

Listing the fundamental principles on which the IFP would not compromise earlier this month, Mr. Buthelezi included recognition of the Zulu monarchy and its sovereignty over Natal/Kwazulu.

In a report on Feb. 1, the Sowetan newspaper predicted that the Zulu king would declare Natal a sovereign monarchy, then decree that there will be no elections on his territory.

The IFP officials told the newspaper that any attempt to invade Kwazulu would unleash armed resistance.

Mr. Lodge doubted that the threat of secession would succeed because Kwazulu, like the nine other black bomelands, is almost totally dependent on the central government for funding, and Pretoria could easily strangle any attempt at a unilateral declaration of independence.

The youth wing of Inkatha Freedom Party said Tuesday it would start a campaign of defiance to South Africa's Transitional Executive Council (TEC)

"We are going to defy every-thing said and done by the TEC. unless they meet our demands," Inkatha Youth Brigade Publicity Secretary Zenzele Phakathi said by telephone from Ulundi, capital of the Kwazulu black borneland.

Mr. Phakati said the youth

University of the Wit-

watersrand, Carolyn Hamil-

ton, said the Zulu kingdom

disintegrated in civil wars fol-

lowing a decisive defeat by

suggest that in the kingdom's

lifetime a broad identity as

'Zulu' ever developed," she

said. "The kingdom was not,

as is commonly thought, a cohesive and united policy."

only in the 1920s, when blacks

in Natal began to feel the

effects of the white-dominated

political and economic order,

that a broad Zulu identity took

in Natal and Zululand became

receptive to the idea that they

needed to draw closer together

to protect their own interests."

In the past decade, there has

been a high level of violence

between Zulus supporting

Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom

"Large numbers of Africans

root.

Ms. Hamilton said it was

"There is no evidence to

British troops in 1879.

launched across South Africa by more than one million brigade members. "We are trying to warn the

defiance campaign would be

TEC and President De Klerk's government that if they don't give in to our demands, they are leading the country to disaster," he said.

Youth Brigade members will also begin what he called a "voter education programme." We will be teaching people that there is a right not to

The campaign would not result in violence, he added. "I don't think it will lead to violence because we are a disciplined organisation," he said.

Meanwhile one woman was killed and a man was wounded when masked gunmen opened up with automatic rifle fire on a disco in South Africa's Natal province late Monday, South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) radio reported Tuesday.

A police spokesman told SABC the men fired through the security gates of the disco in the central Natal town of Newcastle on a crowd of about 25 revellers before fleeing by

The attack follows a similar one in Natal 10 days ago, when gunmen lobbed three handgrenades before opening fire on swimmers in a public pool in the east coast port city of Richard's Bay, injuring one teenager.

Seven black men, including five suspected members of the hardline Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA) were

Party and those backing Nelson Mandela's African Nation-

al Congress, the party tipped

Natal was the site of the

outbreak of hostilines 10 years

ago between Inkatha and the

ANC. Since then about 18,000

blacks have died in political

violence throughout the coun-

Ms. Hamilton said the mem-

ory of Shaka was invoked by

those who wanted to mobilise

Zulus along ethnic lines be-cause he symbolised the crea-

tion of order out of chaos.

Ms. De Haas, in a recent

academic paper written with

fellow-researcher Paulus Zulu.

said Buthelezi's plans for a

highly autonomous Zulu state

homogenous, rifts in political

culture are so serious that it

has become the Lebanon of

South Africa," their paper

"While Natal is etbnically

were unrealistic.

to win the April elections.

Aung San Suu Kyi is healthy — visitor

BANGKOK (R) - The first non-family visitor allowed to meet Burma's detained Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi in more than four years said he found her fit. healthy and happy to be a symbol for the Burmese peo-

"She looks healthy. She is in the process right now of a very strict exercise, meditation reg-imen," U.S. Congressman William Richardson told the British Broadcasting Corpora-non's (BBC) World Service Television.

Mr. Richardson, a New Mexico Democrat, and three others including a U.N. official based in Rangoon and a reporter from the New York Times. had a surprise four-hour meeting with Mr. Aung San Suu Kyi at her Rangoon home Monday.
She told her visitors she had

no intention of leaving her homeland but was ready to negotiate with her jailers on other issues Burma's military rulers have

said she could be released from house arrest any time she promised to leave Burma and to refrain from involvement in politics.

"She is not unhappy, she is content with the fact that she feels she is representing her people in this exile," Mr. Richardson said.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi had said the government "had tried to pressure me to leave in ways no self-respecting government should try. The concept or driving somebody out of their country is totally unacceptable to me.

Whatever they do to me, 1 can take it." she was quoted by the Times as saying.

The 48-year-old opposition politician has been held at her lakeside house since detained by the military government in July, 1989.

Mr. Richardson said that despite his visit and other signs of loosening up, the ruling junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). still beld many other political prisoners.

He echoed the views of di-

VIENNA (R) - North Ko-

rean diplomats resumed talks

with the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) Tues-

day over inspection of the

An IAEA spokesman said a

first round of talks took place

Tuesday morning, breaking

three weeks of deadlock, and a

second round was fixed for

later in the day at the U.N.

way again," IAEA spokesman

North Korea's envoy to the

IAEA, Yun Ho-Jin, met offi-

cials of the agency' division for

the first time since negotiations

North Korea's Stalinist gov-

ernment has refused to allow

inspections of seven declared

nuclear sites for the past year.

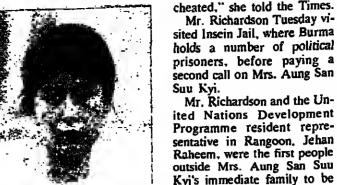
broke down on Jan. 25.

"The discussions are under

nuclear sites.

watchdog agency.

David Kyd said.



allowed to see her.

Mr. Raheem also accompa-

nied Mr. Richardson to Insein

Jail Tuesday, witnesses said.

ma's powerful intelligence

chief, Lieutenant General

Khin Nyunt. Monday and was

scheduled to meet senior

SLORC officials again Tues-

day before leaving for Bang-

amid mounting speculation ab-

out a possible easing in the

SLORC's attitude to Aung San

A Japanese journalist who

visited Burma in mid-January

reported she might be freed in

July. Burmese sources and

foreign diplomats dismissed

the report as a misunderstand-

A few days later, Burmese

authorities pulled the guards

from outside her home on Inya

Lake, although guards re-mained on duty inside the com-

Australia has urged the Bur-

mese government to follow up

its easing of restrictions on

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi by

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said he boped

the visit would lead to her

immediate and unconditional

release and he urged Burma to

release all other political de-

Burma's deputy intelligence

chief told visiting Japanese journalists Tuesday Mrs. Aung

San Sun Kyi will remain under

Colonel Kyaw Win said that

the security act under which

Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi was held came into effect only in

July 1990, and the previous

year of detention was consi-

dered an "arrest period."

house arrest until 1995.

The Richardson visit came

kok in the evening.

Suu Kyi.

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releasing her.

tainees early.

Mr. Richardson met Bur-

Aung San Suu Kyi

plomats in the area who warned that the visit did not mean the repressive junta had necessarily changed its spots. "The message there is they

(the regime) obviously want to loosen some things up. Hopefully this will lead to a discussion between the two," Mr. Richardson said. 'I do agree that the SLORC

— the existing government has made some positive steps recently but, again, we have to wait and see.... we also have a lot of other thousands of political prisoners." he said.

Speculation in diplomatic circles that Mr. Richardson was due to meet Aung San Suu Kyi for a second time Tuesday could not be immediately confirmed by the U.S. embassy in Rangoon.

Until Monday's visit. Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi had met no outsiders except her husband, British academic Michael Aris. and their two teenaged sons, since her July, 1989, detention. Her party, the National

League for Democracy (NLD), convincingly won 1990 elections that SLORC held after forming in September, 1988, in the wake of the military's crushing of a nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

But it then ignored the result and systematically eradicated all forms of opposition, throwing thousands of prodemocracy politicians and activists into prison.

"It must be very exhuasting for them to go on lying. Elections were promised elections were held. The people feel

the two sides were unable to

The IAEA boards of gov-

ernors is expected to declare

Pyongyang in breach of its

obligations under the nuclear

non-proliferation treaty (NPT)

at a meeting next week unless

North Korea agree to inspec-

Meanwhile North Korea's

absolute leader Kim Il-Sung is

believed to have proposed a meeting with U.S. President

Bill Clinton amid the mounting

crisis over North Korea's sns-

pected nuclear arms program-

me, it was reported Tnesday.

through U.S. Southern Baptist

Evangelist Billy Graham, who

met the North Korean presi-

dent and party chief when he

visited Pyongyang in late Janu-

ary, Japan's Jiji Press quoted

official South Korean sources

The sources said that Mr.

Kim had offered to hold a

as saying.

Mr. Kim made the proposal

N. Korea resumes talks with IAEA

agree terms.

Sting gets rock award

LONDON (AFP) Internationally-acclaimed pop-star Sting, former lead singer with the group The Police, was named best British male solo artist here at the prestigious Brit Awards ceremony. Top-selling pop band Take That and Irish singer-songwher Van Morrison were also lon-oured at the event celebrating the best of the rock and pop industry held at London's Aic xandra Palace. Morrison in-ceived a special award for his contribution to the British record industry. His award was presented by former Benny hostage John McCarthy who said that one of the things he remembered most from his years in captivity was fellow hostage Brian Keenan singing. Morrison's songs while they were chained to a wall. The account for best single of the year went to northern England band Take That for its song Praya number one hit in Britain last year which helped confirm the group's position as one of the best-selling bands in the world. Highest-selling album of 1993 was Bat Out Of Heil: II: Back Into Hell by U.S. veteran star Meatloaf.

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Jackson sings on witness stand

DENVER (AP) - Michael Jackson snapped his fingers and sang a couple of verses from his megahit Billie Jean Monday while testifying in a federal copyright infringement lawsuit over the song Dangerous. The American pop star was the first witness to testify Monday as the second week of the civil trial began. The case may go to the eight-member jury later in the day. Smiling and appearing confident, Jackson sang parts of Billie Jean, which was released on his decade-old Thriller album, to illustrate the composing pro-cess. He said he wrote the lyrics for Dangerous while sitting in the dark and listening to the bass track of another of his songs, Street Walker, "I like to sing in the dark, Jackson said. during his 50 minutes of testimony. "I don't like people looking at me unless I'm on stage." Dangerous was the title track of the album that Jackson released in 1992. He copyrighted the song in February 1992, but his lawyers said he first recorded it in 1990, Jackson said he couldn't remember song. The album sold 14 million copies. The pop superstar rolled into the Denver Federal Courthouse in a gray van with tinted windows, avoiding reporters. Jackson reportedly

was flown to Denver Sunday on a private jet.

In a separate development. left for Washington Tuesday after a three-day unadvertised Korea related to the North U.S. embassy said.

The six, led by Democrat

meeting of working-level U.S. and North Korean officials in death toll reaches 43

New York to arrange an exchange of emissaries as the initial steps towards talks between Mr. Kim and Mr. Clin-

six members of the U.S. Congress defence subcommittee fact-finding mission in South Korean nuclear impasse, the

John Murtha, head of the Defence Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee, were to report to President Clinton on their return. an embassy official told AFP.

During the visit, which started Sunday, the group met with South Korean Defence Minister Rbee Byung-Tae, Acting Foreign Minister Hong Soon-Young, Senior Presidential Secretary for Security Affairs Chung Chong-Wook and U.S. embassy and military officials, he said.

marked grave along with the

other 42 victims, whose corp-

ses were placed in mass graves

and four boys were among the

Burmese workers to sneak in

and out from here. When they

die nobody cares about them,

a local businessman said.

victims buried there.

Gravediggers said 16 girls

"It's normal practice for

at a charity foundation site.

Man bites dog

MOSCOW (R) — A man. seized an Alsatian dog that jumped at his in a park in a Ukrainian city and bit it to death in front of its owner, ITAR-TASS news agency said Monday. ITAR-TASS said the dog, named Elsa, may have been aroused by a strong smell of alcohol emanating from the 37-year-old man as he walked through the park in Dnepronetrovsk. Wben Elsa pounced, the man sank his teeth into the dog's throat.

U.S. navy ship rescues 'sheepwreck'

DUBAI (R) — A U.S. Navy. irigate enforcing U.N. sanctions against Iraq went into a action to save 700 sheep on a ship drifting in the Arabian -Sea, the navy said Monday. The USS Curts, accompanying the aircraft carrier USS Indepenedence whose planes patrol Iraq, towed the Indian livestock vessel Shah Al Hasam to safety Saturday, the U.S. Navy said Monday. The freighter had been adrift for 15 days with no food and little water when it was found by the Curts about 100 miles southeast of Oman. The crew of 23 ran up a makeshift sail after the engine failed on a voyage from Soma-lia to Dubai.

Ciosing the barn door after the horse has boited

OSLO (R) - Norway's National Gallery has tightened security and replaced windows with stronger glass after thieves stole one of the world's most famous paintings, The Scream by Edvard Munch. The painting was priceless. Norwegian media said the robbers left a note which read: Thanks for the poor security." The gallery also placed a 24-hour guard in the rooms of the special Munch exhibition.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irish Protestants step up attacks

BELFAST (R) - A string of thwarted attacks using bombs hidden in St. Valentine's Day chocolate boxes bas left Northern Irish Catholics afraid of a upturn in sectarian violence against them. British army experts defused one bomb early Tuesday. It bad been left in a heart-shaped tin in front of a house in a Catholic area of West Belfast that is an Irish Nationalist stronghold. On Monday an elderly Catholic woman picked up a similar chocolate box and a bouquet of flowers from her doorstep. Her son, suspicious after hearing of an earlier failed St. Valentine's bombing, threw the box out of a window into the back garden where it exploded.

Australia recognises Macedonia

CANBERRA (R) — Australia recognised the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Tuesday, but said the country needs to change its flag before it can set up a consulate in the Australian capital. "Our early agreement to the opening of a consulate would be much assisted by a statement on the public record by the government of (Macedonia) that it is prepared to act immediately, or at least as soon as the necessary legislative majority is achievable, to change the country's flag," Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said. Greece and Macedonia have been embroiled in disputes over borders, flags and the republic's name since Macedonia was formed following the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. The Macedonian flag currently includes the Star of Vergina, a nationalist symbol that Greece finds offensive.

U.S. backs new plan for Haiti

WASHINGTON (R) - The United States bas thrown its weight bebind a new plan to end the crisis in Haiti despite the clear reservations of exiled President Jean Bertrand Aristide, administration, officials said Monday. The plan calls for the formation of a broad-based government that could command a parliamentary majority which could then set into motion a political process leading eventually to Mr. Aristide's return. The plan is being spearheaded by members of a Haitian parliamentary delegation which has been visiting the United States for the past week.

Patten fails to win Aussle support

SYDNEY (AFP) - Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten left a meeting with Prime Minister Paul Keating Tuesday without winning Australia's public endorsement of Britain's drive for greater democracy in the colony. But Mr. Patten said that since he didn't come to Australia seeking Mr. Keating's support, he was not disappointed and was delighted with what he described as "an extremely satisfactory meeting." Talks lasting 75 minutes at the prime minister's official residence in Sydney ranged over bilateral trade links, regional issues such as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) group and Hong Kong's future after the British colony reverts to Chinese sovereignty in 1997. Mr. Patten, who is on a six-day visit at Mr. Keating's invitation, told reporters his visit was aimed primarily at persuading even more Australian businesses to use Hong Kong as a springboard to China.

Hurd: Tories would not be 'silly enough to change leader change their leader before the

LONDON (AFP) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Tuesday he believed the Conservative Party would not be "silly" enough to change its leader Prime Minister John Major because of unrest that would cause.

In an interview with the Independent newspaper, Mr. Hurd warned that further back-biting and disunity among the ranks would cause as much long-term damage to conservatism as had been done to the opposition Labour Party in the past.

Mr. Hnrd, wbo is the cabinet's senior statesman, said party-members who had real differences over policy were entitled to make their views known, but the damaging phase of "chattering" had to be brought to an end.

Mr. Hurd said he did not believe the Tories would

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India

the green light to the Interna-

tional Committee of the Red

Cross to visit Kashmir and on

the heels of a trip to the state

by a team of European diplo-

The ambassadors to India of

Belgium, the European Com-

munity. Germany and Greece

spent six days in Kashmir last

week for a first-hand assess-

and Pakistan.

next general election, saying "I think it would be so silly that it won't happen. "The shock of what hap-

pened in 1990 (when Mr. Major replaced Margaret Thatcher after a leadership coup) is still quite strong among active Conservatives and I think the idea of that happening again would horrify them so it would be crazy,"

Speaking shortly before flying out to join the prime minister who is visiting Russia. Mr. Hurd also urged the Tory party to nnite over Europe, particularly in the run-up to June's Euro-elections.

ment in London.

nuclear weapons, stalled after Thai ferry

"We should now put forward as a united party our idea of what Europe should be," he told prospective Tory candidates for the European Parlia-

ment of the situation in the

Talks with the IAEA, the U.N. agency charged with enforeing international safeguards against the spread of

RANONG, Thailand (R) -Authorities Tuesday called off a search for more bodies from a boat that capsized in a soutbern Thai river while ferrying illegal Burmese workers home, although dozens more victims

are thought to be in the water. "A Burmese colonel on a joint border committee 10ld us they do not intend to follow this accident up and said we could deal with it as we saw fit. so all we can do is bury the bodies and close the case," a police officer supervising the search told Reuters. Rescue workers recovered

the body of a Burmese boy in the river Tuesday, bringing the known death toll to 43.

The unidentified body of the

boy, who was about eight years old, was buried in an un-

India throws open doors to Kashmir to counter Pakistan

has launched a campaign devalley torn by nearly five years signed to counter Pakistani of separatist strife. charges of human rights abuses They visited Srinagar, the in Kashmir by throwing open urban hub of the Muslim rebelthe doors to the northern state hon against Indian rule, and gripped by a Muslim separatist other towns, met Kashmiri Muslims and also toured the rebellion. Indian Foreign Minister refugee camps of Kashmiri Dinesh Singh announced Mon-

Hindus forced to flee their day on his return from a visit to homes. .. ree European capitals that Speaking to a parliamentary Amnesty International would commission here following his be allowed into the Himalayan trip to Brussels, London and territory claimed by both India Paris. Mr. Singh said Amnesty would be allowed to send teams to Kashmir on a "case-The announcement came just days after New Delhi gave by-case" basis.

We are following (a policy of) greater transparency on Kashmir." the foreign minister said.

"There is a danger that the separatist and terrorist groups would utilise such visits to put on dramatic shows for the visitors and for the media, but the transparency should be continued." he said.

paigning for years for permisof the Nazis. sion to probe alleged human rights violations in Kashmir. India's only Muslim-majority

state. and Red Cross officials here said they wanted to launch humanitarian relief Amnesty and other human rights groups have repeatedly loon running out of gas." denounced the conduct of the Indian security forces in Kash-

mir. accusing them of carrying out summary executions of suspected Muslim militants and other abuses.

The new policy of greater openness on Kashmir coincides with attempts by Pakistan to push through condemnation of India at international conferences and a war of words between New Delhi and Islama-

At a recent meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. Pakistani Premier Benazir Bhutto likened the actions of the Indian security forces in Kashmir to those

Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma responded by saying Ms. Bhutto was "out of touch with reality" and Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khursheed described her as a "hot air bal-

A Pakistani spokesman de-nounced Mr. Khursheed as a "rented Muslim" before both governments temporarily toned down the rhetoric.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao urged visiting U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan meanwhile to pressure Pakistan to return to the negotianing table.

"It is for friends of Pakistan such as the USA to persuade it to sit with India to discuss all issues affecting bilateral relations including the Kashmir problem." Mr. Rao told Gen. Moynihan here Monday.

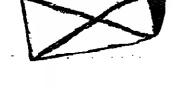
India's now-retired Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit met senior Pakistani officials in Islamabad during the first week of January but the talks failed to produce any breakthrough.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence over Kash-India, which holds the south-

ern two-thirds of Kashmir, accuses Pakistan, which holds the northern third, of arming and training Muslim militants. Pakistan denies the charges

but provides diplomatic and moral support to what it describes as a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

Meanwhile, Panidt Hindus, the largest minority in mainly Muslim Kashmir, complained Monday that Muslim militants had driven nearly all Hindus from the Kashmir Valley with a brutal campaign of "ethnic cleansing."



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazii take up race with World Cup holders

iog, former lead a common les group The Police less British link ZURICH, Switzerland (AFP) - Brazil have overtaken Italy to become Germany's closest chasers in the FIFA worldhere at the press plant wards ceremony plant pop band Take of the singer-songer forms were about rankings released here Tuesday. Because the Italians have not played since mid-November, they fall to seventh place, Holland move up from seventh to third. Nigeria move up three places to 15th and remain Africa's top ranked country. World Cup qualifiers Saudi Arabia are the best from the Asian federation in 36th place. England have dropped down one place to 12th since the last rankings were released Dec. 31. Hong Kong made an impressive 14 place rise to 98.

Stich to help Germany defend Davis Cup

ndustry. His await ited by former by STUTTGART, Germany (AP) - Michael Stich, the world's is John McCarth amouncement Monday that he will help Germany defend the base of the this in captivity and play when the learn opens against Austria is learned by former based in captivity when the learn opens against Austria is learned to the learn opens against Austria is learned to the will play when the learn opens against Austria is learned to the will play when the learn opens against Austria is learned to the will play when the learn opens against Austria is learned to the world's second-ranked player, ended months of speculation with the amounted to the learned t in captivity was be play when the learn opens against Austria in late march.

Brian Keenan to play for Germany — that decided matters." the 1991

Wimbledon winner said. Stich fulfilled a long-time dream last

Wimbledon winner said. It was believed he might prefer to d to a wall. The ack st single of the year another Davis Cup title. Germany's other top player, Boris That for its Becker, has not announced whether he will play this season. That for its song haber one init in Britan he concentrates on regaining a place in the world top 10.

That for its song haber one init in Britan he concentrates on regaining a place in the world top 10.

That for its song haber one init in Britan he concentrates on regaining a place in the world top 10. which helped continues, he concentrates on regaining a place in the concentrates of the concentrates on regaining a place in the concentrates of s position as one di pions.

st-selling album of an Out of Hell: It Le Tissier hat-trick leads Southampton

SOUTHAMPTON, England (AP) - Matthew Le Tissier scored in the game's first minute and completed a hal-trick with two penalties Monday night to lead Southampton to a 4-2 upset of Liverpoot in English soccer's premier league. Le Tissier's first score came just 28 seconds into the match before 18.306 on a snowy night at the Dell. Taking the first shot of the game on Southampton's opening surge, the striker's right-footed drive from 25 yards (metres) out beat Liverpool goalkeeper Bruce Grobhelaar. Le Tissier then helped make it 2-0 in the sixth minute. His corner to the Liverpool penalty area found Iain Dowie, who headed the ball to Craig Maskell. Maskell, playing his first game since a £250,000 (\$375,000) transfer from Swindon, headed it home from three yards (metres). Le Tissier nailed a penalty two minutes before aliftime, then followed with another five minntes after the ay as the second was vil trial began. The interval, his 14th and 15th goals of the season. Liverpool rallied for two late scores. Dicks converted a penalty in the 68th. and Ian Rush put in the rebound after Dicks, low drive in the 86th was deflected by goalkeeper Dave Beasant. The win moved Southampton out of the relegation zone, from 20th to 17th in the 22-team league. Liverpool, which could have moved as high as third with a victory, remained fifth,

Chesnokov outlasts Tarango in U.S. Open

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Seventh-seeded Andrei Chesno-kov of Russia outlasted Jeff Tarango of the United States 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 in a haseline duel Monday in the first found of the U.S. Indoor tournament. Chesnokov, a runner-up at Hamburg and Prague last year, served an ace to take a 5-4 lead in the third set. He won the match in the oext game with a high voiley as Tarango lost his service game at love. In other matches, Luiz Mattar of Brazil defeated Grant Stafford of South Africa 6-2, 6-4, qualifier Doug Flach downed Sebastien Lareau of Canada 6-4, 6-3, and Jakoh Hlasek of Switzerland defeated Thomas Enqvist of Sweden 6-3, 7-5.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
 TANNAH HIRSCH

WHAT'S MY LINE?

East-West vulnerable. South NORTH * A J 8 7 2 A J 10 EAST COW (R) - At WEST \$643 776543 an Alsatian dog! Q8

0085432 0 1078 SOUTH • K 10 5 7.8 0 A K aroused by a strong The bidding ohol emanating for South West North Es ar-old man as he will Pass 1 + Pass 1 + Pass the park in 1 2 + Pass 2 \(\times \) North East ar-old man as in the 24 gh the park in the 24 trovsk. When f 34

ed, the man said 50 into the dog's that Pass Opening lead: Four of .> More often than not, there's more than one way to play a contract and sometimes it takes a computer to PESCUES

Work out which of the various lines had only work out which of the various lines had best. Cover up the East-West cards and decide which is the percentage play on this hand.

Note North's solution to a difficult rebidding problem on the second round. After South gave a jump preference to three spades, North showed club support and a cue-bid-

ding sequence led to the top spot.

No player worth one's salt would rely on a finease alone, so those lines can be discarded. The approach we like is simplicity itself. Win the dismond, cash the ace of hearts and ruff a heart, then lead a club to the

If the king of clubs drops, your troubles are over and you're playing for an overtrick. If both defenders for an overtrick. If both defenders follow, but the king does not appear, ruff dummy's remaining heart, cash the other high diamond and exit with a trump. Whichever defender wins must either lead a spade and solve your problem in that suit, or else yield a ruff-sluff—either way six clubs rolls in. If trumps are 3-0, cash the acc-king of spades and, if the queen doesn't drop, fall back on the heart finesse.

Zia Mahmood found an attractive siternative. He cleared diamonds

alternative. He cleared diamonds and immediately took a trump finesse. That wins any time West holds the king or East has a singleton king. When East won and returned a trump, Zia cashed the accluded of snades, intending to finesse. king of spades, intending to finesse in hearts if oothing good happened, and all was well.

Kerrigan's coach says Harding schedule a mistake

HAMAR, Norway (R) -Tonya Harding may have made a tactical blunder in waiting so long to travel to Norway for the Winter Olympics. Nancy Kerrigan's coach has said.

Evy Scotvold said Harding's probahte arrival Wednesday meant she would not practise her free skaling programme in the same rink where she will compete until after the event

"They did the same thing (at the Albenville Games) in 1992 and it was a mistake then," he

Harding appeared in Alhen-

ville three days before the women's event as a top medal favourite and placed fifth. Kerrigan and Harding are considered medal prospects in the games, along with European champion Surya Bonaty of France. World champion Oksana Baiul of Ukraine and

Scotvold said Kerrigan has learned a lot about the Olym-

MELBOURNE (R) - Au-

stralia's inclusion in the Asian

qualifying group would not be

welcomed hy the region's

established soccer powers be-

cause of their strength, a 10p

Japanese club coach said Tues-

day.

Kiyo Kumo, coach of JLeague side Jef United, said

Australia would provide stern.

We would rather Australia

opposition for Asian countries.

were not in the Asian group,

said Kumo, speaking through

Kumo said Australia proved

they were a world-class side

when they lost 2-1 on aggregate

in their final qualifier against

Argentina last year after win-

ning the Oceania group and

then a playoff against Canada,

way. The last qualification

games showed Australia were

extremely strong,", added Kumo, whose side will play

quarters at Bag'a.

"All Asian people think that

an interpreter.

Asia wary of Australia

as World Cup opponent

Chen Lu of China.

pic ice and adjusted to the larger rink since arriving last

"It is 15 feet wider than our rink at home and it may be longer too," he said, "You have to adjust to that. If you do a jump in a corner, you have to adjust to the fact that it will take longer to get there in a larger rink.

practice sessions of the long programme in the main rink and Nancy also skated here in the pre-Olympic event (skipped by Harding) tast year."
The last scheduled practice of the women's long program-me in the competition rink is

"We have had two complete

on Monday. After that, all the long programme practices are in the smatter training rink. "Maybe it is not a prohlem for everyone. But it is a lot smarter to get there early. The

practice times are one of the first things we look at for an Olympic or world cham-pionship. It's what decides when we get there."

two friendlies in Melbourne

this weekend during their pre-

eration is lobbying for a more direct route to the World Cup

finals. They want the Oceania

group winners to play in the

If world governing body FIFA backs the move, Asia is

expected to be handed a third

qualifying berth for the 1998

Under the present qualifying

the Oceania group, beat the runners-up in the Concacaf

group and then defeat the

runner-up in a South American

group to reach the World Cup

Jef United's German mid-

fielder Pierre Littbarski, a

veteran of three World Cup

campaigns, praised the prog-

ress made by Australia.

LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

SERVICES NEEDED

pected around mid April 1994. Work must be

A list of the equipment to be installed, tested,

operated and calibrated is available and will be

supplied free of charge to interested parties upon

request to the address shown below during Govern-

ment work hours until 12 noon Thursday March 10,

Offers (including price quotes) to provide the

required services should be submitted to the Chief

of the Technical Assistance and Services Office

(TASO), at the same address, along with C.V.s of

the individuals to perform these services no later

than 12 noon Thursday March 24, 1994. Offers must

National Centre for Agricultural Research & Technology Transfer

National Agricultural Development Project

Technical Assistance & Services Office (TASO)

Baq'a-Jordan

Fax: 679677

be valid for a minimum of two months.

completed no later than July 31, 1994.

tem, , Australia have to win

The Australian Soccer Fed-

season tour.

Asian play-offs.

finals in France.

Under the schedule, Harding will only get to rehearse her long programme with her music on the main ice Feb. 24, the day after the event starts. and the next morning before the free skating final.

A spokesman for the U.S. Figure Association said Harding had always planned a later

The timing had not been dictated by the legal wrangling over the metal bar attack on Kerrigan's knee at the U.S. championships in Detroit last month, he said.

Harding's ex-husband and her bodyguard have admitted their involvement in planning the attack but Harding has maintained she was not Involved.

An agreement was reached last Saturday under which the U.S. Olympic Committee would cancel a/scheduled hearing on Harding's conduct and she would withdraw a lawsuit against the USOG. That freed her to compete.

China tourney loses top seed

BEIJING (R) - Top-seeded Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan pul-led out of China's first professional women's tennis tournament Tuesday because of tendinitis, one day after the start of play failed to attract a single paying spectator.

Wang, the world's number 28th-ranked woman player, withdrew from the \$100,000 China women's open after complaining of paio in her right elbow during morning practice, match organisers #816 in a statement.

"I will still consider coming back to Beijing next year if the tournament is held," Wang was quoted as saying, adding that she would return home to rest up for the Japan Open in

LILLEHAMMER WINTER OLYMPICS

Americans relax, rake in gold

American ski racers took a beating in the build-up to the Winter Olympics but they have silenced their critics by winning the first two Alpine races.

Diann Rofee-Steinrotter foltowed Tommy Moe's downhill triumph with an unexpected win in the women's super-giant sialom and theo put her finger on the secret for their success.

"We Americans really know how to relax and perform welt," she said after most of the leading contenders either fell or fluffed their lines.

"The Olympics are a funny day. It's one day and one race and anyone can win," said the 26-year-old who announced she would retire at the end of the season. She first demonstrated her

ability to rise to the occasion by winoing the world giant slalom title as an 18-year-old in 1985 but has had something of an up and down career. Fortunately her peaks have often coincided with the big day. Roffe-Steinrotter chose to

ski first and then had an endless wait as her main rivals failed to find any comparable monentum on the demanding lower twists and turns. Her biggest threat dis-

appeared when world champion Katja Seizinger of Germany fell soon after the start. Svetlana Gladischeva, whose hard-up Russian team was taken under the Austriao wing this season, denied 18year-old Isolde Kostner of Italy a silver medal.

Gladischeva became the first Russian to win an Olympic Alpine medal, just as her downhill bronze at Saalbach in 1991 made ber the first Soviet to claim a world championship medal.

Roffee-Steinrotter, Olympic giaot slalom runoer-up in Albertville two years ago, is now a favourite for that eveot on Feb. 24.

Organisers, concerned about safety after Ulrike Maier hroke her neck in a World Cup downhill io January, worked all night to clear icy patches off



U.S. Diann Roffe speeds to Olympic gold in Women's Super Giant slalom in Kritfjell (AFP photo)

the course which had been switched from Hafjell to the men's course at Kvitfjell.

Russia's Lyubov Egorova and Italy's Manuela di Centa reversed the order of Sunday's opening 15km freestyle and Egorova's 5km triumph allowed Russia to go above Norway at the top of the medals table.

The Russians should go further ahead after Tuesday night's figure skating when Sergei Grinkov and his wife Ekaterina Gordeeva should become the first of the former professional skaters to reclaim their Olympic title.

A change in rules allowed the professionals to return for these games and the 1988 champions have a clear lead after the first part of the competitioo.

Reigning Olympic cham-pions Natalya Mishkutenok and Artur Dmitriev should make it a Russian one-two.

Marja-Liisa Kirvesniemi, who three gold medals at Sarajevo in 1994 in her third Olympics, became the oldest winner of an individual medal

in her sixth Winter Games. The 38-year-old mother of two is a year older than Eevi Huttunen, another Finn who won a 3,000m speed skating bronze at Souaw Valley in

Kirvesniemi was undecided about competing in Thursday's 10km pursuit, when the skiers start with the same time advantage from today's race as she is not as comfortable at the skating style.

Austrian bobsledder Gerhard Rainer became the first competitor at these Winter Games to be thrown out for drug use. The 23-year-old Ionsbruck

policeman tested positive for steroids in a pre-Olympic test and was thrown off the team the day before last Saturday's opening ceremony.

Faced with a two-year han, he said he would retire from the sport.

Gerda Weissensteiner of Italy, fourth two years ago, set a track record at Hunderfossen as she took a hoge halfway lead of one fifth of a second in the women's luge.

La Malson Verte Restaurant

From 7:00pm until Midnight

17- February Pro-Opening Night 1. The National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) at Bag'a is seeking the services of qualified and experienced Jordanian laboratory technicians (firms/individuals) to install, test, operate and calibrate laboratory equipment at NCARTT's head-The required services will be for 2-3 months to start upon completion of NCARTT new building ex-



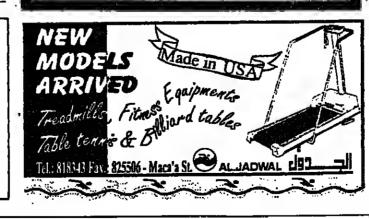
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the navy said Moses Gotta Have It ience whose plants towed the Indian We have it no food and little 100 miles souther

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> CLIFFHANGER Show: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CONCORD '1' Last Action Hero Shows: 12:30, 3, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2'

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NEWS IN BRIEF

italian aid workers freed in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Two Italian aid workers kidnapped in Somelia were freed Tuesday after 48 hours in captivity, Italian dan tast said in the capital Mogadishu. Their release in Rome by Italian Defence Minister Fabio wo, Sergio Passadore, 38, and Gianfranco ne agricultural aid agency CEFA, were freed in 150 kilometres north of Mogadishu. Gunmen Jowhar, abc abducted the wo in Jowbar on Sunday and demanded a \$50,000 ra, om which diplomats said was not paid. Their kidnapping ght to five the number of foreigners abducted t over a week. All of them, including two British men. A.s of parliament, have been freed.

Campaign launched to 'protect' settlements

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Settler leaders launched a campaign Tuesday to recruit volunteers to ensure the survival of all Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, after two ministers urged the removal of an isolated colony. "This call is issued to Israelis who don't live in (the West Bank) or Gaza to come and defend any settlement threatened by the government," Sbai Bazak, spokesman for the settlers' council, told AFP. "Our aim is to bave a list of thousands of people ready to turn out immediately to oppose physically the evacuation of settlements," he said. Mr. Bazak said there was no question of fighting, only of passive resistance such as lying on the ground.

Rafsaniani nominates moderate as minister

NICOSIA (AP) — A French-trained engineer was nominated Tuesday as Iran's new minister of culture and Islamic guidance, the country's equivalent of an information minister, Tehran's state-rnn news agency said. The official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the nomination of Mustafa Mirsalim by President Hashemi Rafsanjani was expected to meet with parliament's approval when it considers the nomination Sunday. Mr. Mirsalim replaces Ali Larijani, who was shifted to the post of head of radio and television on Sunday, taking over from Mr. Rafsanjani's brother Mobammad Hashemi, who was in charge of Iranian broadcasting for 13 years. Mr. Hashemi has been appointed deputy foreign minister.

Israeli navy seizes Lebanese fishermen

TYRE, Lebanon (AFP) - The Israeli navy abducted at dawn Tuesday five fishermen in Lebanese territorial waters and towed their boats towards Israel, fishermen here said. The five were on board two boats just south of the port of Tyre when an Israeli gunboat intercepted them, a fisherman who was in the vicinity said. He charged that members of Israel's proxy militia manning a position overlooking Tyre opened fire at the fishermen at the same time but there were no casualties. The Israeli navy patrols the waters of South Lebanon, intercepting boats and seizing travellers or fishermen for questioning as part of operations to check for resistance fighters.

Jewish agency chief indicted for fraud

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Simcha Dinitz, the powerful head of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist organisation, has been indicted for fraud for allegedly fiddling \$20,000 worth of expenses. Mr. Dinitz, a former Israeli ambassador to Washington, began leave of absence on Tuesday after attorney general Michael Ben Yair announced that formal charges were being pressed after two years of investigations. The 64-yearold Labour Party nominee who held the post for four years faces up to five years in jail. The Jewish Agency, a para-governmental body, oversees immigration to Israel and concentrates on work inside the country while the World Zionist Organisation focuses on the diaspora.

Russia executes 'Rostov ripper' killer

T

MOSCOW (R) - Russia has executed serial killer Andrei Chikatilo, convicted of 52 murders in three former Soviet republics during a 12-year rampage, Interfax news agency said on Tuesday. Chikatilo, known as the "Rostov Ripper," was shot on Monday in the southern region of Rostov-on-Don after President Boris Yeltsin rejected an appeal for clemency, the agency said. The former teacher was found guilty of raping and murdering 21 boys aged between eight and 16, 14 girls aged between nine and 17, and 17 older women in Russia. Ukraine and Uzbekistan strating in 1978. He was finally arrested in 1990. At this trial, relatives of his victims fainted as the horrific details of his crimes were read out to a stunned

Fraq not complying, Havel tells Kuwaitis

KUWAIT (R) - Czech President Vaclav Havel said in Monday Iraq had "regrettably" failed to implement all U.N. resolutions concerning its 1990 invasion and seven-month occupation of Kuwait. Mr. Havel said he had discussed Iraq. Bosnia and Russia with the emir. Sheikh jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, in cordial and friendly talks on a brief working visit on his way home from a tour of India and Thailand, Mr. Havel said he reiterated during the four-hour visit that the Czech Republic considered Iraq had "regrettable" failed to implement all U.N. war ceasefire resolutions. "We still place emphasis on the need for Iraq to fulfil the requirements laid down in the U.N. resolutions which Iraq regrettably has failed to do so far." he told a news conference before departing.

Turkish ship attacked by pirates

DJIBOUTI (AFP) - Pirates have attacked a Turkish cargo ship off the coast of Somalia. stripping the vessel of all its equipment and robbing the crew of their personal belongings. a Turkish official said here Monday. Aden Chideh Robleh, Turkey's honorary consul to Diibouti, said the attack occurred last Thursday shortly after the Castor-Malta left Diibouti for the Somali port of Berbera where it was to load a cargo of live-stock for a Somali merchant. Mr. Robleh said about three hours after leaving Djibouti. the ship was approached off the coast of Saylac by a speedboat with six armed pirates on board. He said the pirates, who came from Somaliland, the secessionist republic in northwest Somalia, forced the ship to head towards the coastline where it ran aground and then boarded the vessel taking everything possible, including the personal belongings of the 10 crew members, before fleeing. The crew had to use a lifeboat to reach Djibouti two days

British MP quits bench over Somalia visit

LONDON (AFP) - Pallician Tony Worthington has resigned from the Labour Party's front bench, apparently because his visit to Somalia was not sanctioned by the party. Labour leader John Smith had accepted Mr. Worthington's resignation "with regret." a party spokesman said Monday. It follows a meeting at the House of Commons between party whips and Mr. Worthington - whose overseas trip was highly oublicised after he was !-riefly detained by Somali gunmen with the Conservative number of parliament for Somerion and Frome in south-west England. Mark Robinson. Labour Party whips expressed anger last week that Mr. Worthington. 52, had visited Somalia in apparent defiance of party orders. Overseas trips with Tory MPs are banned for Labour MPs in the current state of non-cooperation between the two parties. "Mr. Worthington submitted a letter of resignation saying that because of the distress he had caused the party, and because party discipline is of paramount importance, with regret he had submitted his resignation." a Labour Party spokesman

U.N. probe finds Croats behind village massacre

By Suhair Obeldat Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - A massacre of the civilian population of the village of Stupni Do on Oct. 23, 1993, was carried ont by troops of the Croation Defence Council (HVO), a United Nations report said Tues-

day.
The report, released in New York and made available to the Jordan Times by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), includes the results of an investigation undertaken by the military police of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPRO-FOR) based on extensive interviews with the survivors of the massacre, as well as onsite investigation and photographic evidence.

The report concludes that Stupni Do, a small, predominantly Bosnian Muslim village two kilometres from the town of Varges, was attacked by the HVO from Kiseljak, Travnik and Kakanj under the command of Ivica Rajic.

So far, 23 victims have been clearly identified. A further 13 villagers of Stupni Do are unaccounted for and presumed dead, bringing the preliminary total number of

victims to 36, the report said. Most of the 193 survivors spoke of women being raped and a 54-year-old man being killed by antomatic machinegun fire because "be possessed no money or valuables to hand over."

The village was attacked because its residents refused to hand over their weapons which controls the villages surrounding Stupmi Do.

To carry out the attack, HVO used small arms and anti-aircraft gunfire and many witnesses noted the apparent use of incendiary bullets by the attacking forces "as shells landing in the vil-lage set houses on fire," the report said.

Repeated attempts by the UNPROFOR to enter the village were consistently blocked by the HVO brigade,

which threatened the force with rocket-propelled grenade anti-tank weapons, small arms and barriers of anti-tank mines.

Two days following the attack, UNPROFOR troops were allowed to enter Stupni Do to find an empty village with all 52 houses burned down. Fourteen bodies were discovered, four men and three women were identified. but the rest were burnt, beyond recognition, the report said.

Two bodies were found to have crushed skulls and some appeared to have been burned on the top of destroyed houses. There were also several dead cattles lying about, many also burnt, and a strong odor of burnt flesh was in the air, the report added.

" In describing the incident, many "witnesses stated that the HVO attackers were wearing black uniforms with white bands on the left shoulder or green camouflage uniforms," said the report. "Some had camouflaged

faces and HVO patches, while others had no identifying marks. Those wearing black uniforms also wore black baseball caps and were suspected to be members of an HVO "death squad" or special forces unit from Kiseljak. One survivor believed that HVO from Vares and the Babovac brigade from Kiseliak took revenge on Stupni Do as a reprisal for Bih Armija offensives in the region, in particular in Kakanj. With only two exceptions, none of the witnesses recognized any of the HVO soldiers as being from

"Several female survivors from Stupni Do stated that they had been raped by HVO soldiers during the attack.
Others reported being robbed of their valuables and, in one case, of a 54-year-old grandfather being killed by automatic machine-gun fire because be possessed no money or valuables to hand

the Palestinians to stick to their

timetable to implement auton-

omy as quickly as possible.

wbo, want the peace plan to

conference before leaving

Israel after a three-day visit.

trophe," he said.

"Failure would be a catas-

In the interests of making

the plan succeed, Mr. Juppe

said France would establish a

cultural centre in Jericho, ex-

pected to be the seat of Palesti-

nian autonomy, and help set

was undermining the peace

process through continued set-

tlement activity, doing bttle to

alleviate economic problems

caused by preventing Palesti-

mans from working in Israel

nor easing housing problems.

omy succeed we have to

change daily life in the occu-

pied territories, where it is often difficult," Mr. Juppe

"To make peace and auton-

"Time works for those

the local area, nor did they

hear names being used, other

than nicknames.

"Several survivors also reported that they had witnessed the killing of three disabled and unarmed men found in one of the community shelters and the machinegunning to death of a 56year-old woman wbo had complained of a sore leg. One survivor also recounted hiding in a family basement with three other women and of being discovered by some HVO soldiers who, on entering the basement and inquiring if anyone was present. shot the three women who were offering to surrender." The report said that inves-

tigations are continuing in order to gain as much evidence as possible "with a view to identifying the perpetrators for eventual trial before the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991."

U.K. depressives told to forget

pills, try poetry

BRISTOL, England (R) — A-study by British doctors has told people suffering from anxiety and depression to try reading poetry as an alterna-tive to taking pills. Doctors taking part in the study at Bristol University in southwest England found a few lines by poets such as Wordsworth, Keats or Browning can overcome a patient's need for pills, the Daily Telegraph said Tuesday. With spending on anti-depressant drugs running at more than £80 million (\$117.5) million) a year in Britain these literary prescriptions could also save, money for the state health service, the paper said. "I would have thought poetry is infinitely superior to any tablets just like music it is therapeutic." Dr. Alexander Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association of the study. "The pharmaceutical industry might not like it, of

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Britain designs bomb proof luggage container

LONDON (AFP) - An aircraft baggage container cap-able of absorbing shock waves from bombs such as the one which destroyed a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie in 1988, has been developed in Britain, the Times reported Tuesday. The holder, made of a highly classified secret material, was designed by scientists at Royal Ordnance, a subsidiary of Brit-ish Aerospace (BAE), and was on public display at London's Heathrow Airport. BAE will not manufacture the complete units, which could have a workdwide market of 300,000 containers, but will sell licences, the paper said. Development work on the container began in 1988, immediately after a bomb placed in the luggage hold of the Pan Am jetliner caused the plane to explode over the Scottish border town of Lockerbie, killing 270-people. Royal ordnance engineers told the paper the new design would not protect an aircraft

against much larger bombs. "You cannot protect anything against a really determined terrorist. Nor could this container stop a much larger device destroying an aircraft," said onc. But airport security authorities should be able to detect. bigger bombs than that usedover Lockerbie," he added.

the key to the end of the factional hostilities is Mr. Rabbani's unconditional resigna-Gen. Raoufi, an etbnic

ar as telling it by telephone that a four-day ceasefire was in effect to support the peace efforts of Jallaludin Haqqani, an important leader who heads a mediation team in Kabol. But Mr. Hekmatyar, who is based in Charasiab on the out-

Mr. Raoufi denied allega-

On the contrary, the fighting was started by Rabbani's commander-in-chief, ex-

Since the fighting began six weeks ago, at least 10,000 people have been wounded and close to 1,000 have been killed. Hundreds of thousands of Kabul residents have been chased out of their homes, with many going to the eastern city

ceasefire in Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — A four-day truce between warring factions officially began Tuesday. but artillery rounds blasted the perimeter of Defence Ministry compound in the besieged

In neighbouring Pakistan, the United Nations said there were food shortages in Kabul stepped in to help,

anniversary of the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanis-tan, but the Central Asian nation remains mired in a war that shows no signs of ending. The top military commander

of Uzbek forces in Kabul said Tuesday peacefully negotiations are preferable but fighting is inevitable if President Burbannddin Rabbani does not res-

prefer a peaceful solution through negotiation, but if this General Rahmatuliah Raoufi told AFP.

There was calm Tuesday in the war-battered capital, where the fighting since the start of the new year has left bundreds of people dead and an estimated 16,000 injured. No one, however, acknowledged a temporary ceasefire was formally operative.

In Pakistan, the Frontier Post daily cited Mr. Hekmaty-

skirts south of Kabul, said there could be no permanent ceasefire until Mr. Rabbani quits, adding that he himself would also step down as prime

tions by the state that Gen. Dostum forces had launched a coup against, Mr. Rabbani on New Year's Day.

Defence Minister Ahmad Sbah

of Jalalabad, 200 kilometres

Wobbling

that could turn into a famine unless the fighting stopped and the international community Tnesday marked the fifth

"We are against war and

"We bave the military means to capture Kabul," said Gen. Raoufi, but stressed that

Pushtun, heads the Kabul forces of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum. The general, in alliance with Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's predominantly Pushtun Hezb-e-Islami faction, has been fighting pro-Rabbani troops.

Meanwhile, amid the temporary lull in fighting, scores of civilians were seen evacuating the old Microrayan bousing estate which is a frontline between Dostum forces and Rabbani troops.

Masoud, Gen. Raoufi said.

Euro-jail league

Britain at top of

LONDON (AFP) — Britain has the highest rate of imprisonment in Western Europe, according to a Council of Europe survey published here late Monday by the prison watchdog, the Howard League for Penal Reform. The prison population in England and Wales climbed by a record 450 last week to 47,870 - nearly 600 more than the official capacity of the jail system and has risen by more than fiveper cent since Jan. 1, the survey cited in the Guardian newspaper, found. According to the survey carried out on theprison population in 23 countries, Britain jails 92.1 people per 100,000 head of population - the highest rate in Western Europe. Germany has 78.8 in-mates per 100,000 inhabitants. while Italy has 56. Only one other country of the states surveyed. Hungary, has a higher rate of imprisonment. Its 14,629 prison population represents 146 inmates per 100.000.

Father withdraws appeal for devil of a name

TOKYO (R) - A Japanese father finally gave up Tuesday fighting authorities for the right to name his seven-month-old son "devil". "I am fed up with the fuss," the man said. Media reports quoted him as saying he had already made his point by fighting in court to give the boy the name Akuma, or Devil, and was tired of waiting for a final ruling. A spokesman at the Tokyo Family Court's Hachioji branch said the man withdrew from the case after the local ward office appealed a Feb. 1 ruling approving Devil. The ward office initially accepted the court ruling but decided to appeal on grounds it broke social norms after consulting the Justice Ministry.

shot dead in Assiyut

Policeman

ASSIYUT, Egypt (Agencies) Suspected militants shot dead a policeman and wounded another as they went to work on Tuesday in the troubled Assiyut province of southern Egypt, police said. Security forces lannched a

search for the killers, who were believed to be members of the outlawed Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah. The shooting in the town of

Badari came a day after police

in Cairo shot dead three militants, including the head of the Gamaa's armed wing, Sarwat A total of 109 policemen have been killed since the Gamaa began its campaign against President Hosni

years ago, two-thirds of them in the Assiyut area. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry played down two re-

Mubarak's government two

ported attacks on Monday. The shooting of a bus carrying Romanian engineers was aimed at the company, which had recently laid off workers, and not the passengers, who escaped unburt, the ministry

And a blast which wounded seven passers-by in a shopping centre in the northern town of Tanta was caused by a wartime shell, it said.

The ministry also criticised news agencies for encouraging the Gamaa by carrying its

The group has issued a series of threats against foreigners, It stepped up its operations after seven of its members were killed by police in Cairo two weeks ago. It claimed that

blood. Almost 300 people have been killed in the two-year battle between the militants

the men were shot in cold

and security forces. In Monday's incident, Egyptian police killed three wanted militants in a brief gunbattle during a raid on a flat in Cairo. security sources said.

The militants were members of the Gamaa, they said. Police went to the flat in the

poor sonthern quarters of Sayyeda Zeinab to arrest the three men, who were close to seven militants shot dead in a police raid in the northern suburb of Al Zawya Al Hamra on Feb. 1, the sources added.

One security source named the leader of the three as Hagag, a Gamaa member wanted in connection with several acts of violence including an attack on Austrian tourists in old Cairo on Dec. 27.

The police stormed the flat shortly after dusk, when most Cairenes are at bome this month breaking the Ramadan

The Egyptian authorities have gone on the offensive against the militants this month, rounding up hundreds of them across the country. especially in parts of Cairo and in Assiyut, a Gamaa stron-

fnterior Minister Hassan Al Alfi has said the government intends to wipe out all "terrorists" — the official term for members of the violent Islamist groups.

The Gamaa has threatened to carry out seven operations in revenge for the raid on the Zawya Al Hamra flat.



Juppe urges Israel to freeze settlement and free prisoners

is under discussion at the-

autonomy negotiations be-

tween Israel and the Palestine

Liberation Organisation

(PLO) at the Egyptian Red

Mr. Juppe, on the third and

final day of his visit, said Paris

would help rehabilitate prison-

His calls came after he

pledged to step up military and political ties with Israel in talks

Monday with Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign

In Gaza, the Palestinian de-.

Minister Shimon Peres.

ers, he added.

Strip (Agencies) - French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe on Tuesday urged Israel to free Palestinian prisoners and balt ments to boost Palestinian

autonomy. He announced that Paris would grant the Palestinians an extra \$10 million dollars for

"Settlement must be frozen, family reunification allowed and prisoners freed and rehabilitated." Mr. Jappe told reporters after meeting Palesti-man delegations first in East Jerusalem and then Gaza City.

France supported Palestinian self-determination, as it has done for 25 years, said Mr. Juppe, the first French minister to visit the occupied Gaza

Strip.
"Our position is clear: We want the published timetable (for autonomy) to be followed because if the peace process is

delayed it risks being bogged

sures are also needed, as I told the Israeli authorities, and the ties between Israel and France allow us to demand them."

"Confidence building mea-

Dr. Abdul Shafi asked France to pressure Israel into

Tuesday morning in East Jerusalem he met a delegation led by Faisal Husseini, the head of Yasser Arafat's Fatch movement in the occupied

The French foreign minister

believed to have filled com-

petently to the extent that

Gen. Bashir has given him a

Two federal ministers, Ibra-

him Oheidallah, who was until

Monday minister of economic

planning and investment, and

Ahdullah Deng Nyal, a south-

ern Muslim and minister of

peace and rehabilitation, were

moved to governorships. Mr.

Obeidallah given the central

state and Deng the White Nile

A reshufle of the central

government is expected soon

and may be more than finding

state, in northern Sudan.

medal for his performance.

up Palestinian television legation was led by local Fateb broadcasting facibities. leader Zakaria Al Agha and Haidar Abdula Shafi, former During his visit to the Gaza head of the Palestinian delega-Strip without any Israeli securtion to the Washington peace ity escort, Mr. Juppe met with mine-senior Palestinian officials who complained that Israel

ending human rights violations, freeing prisoners, freezing settlement and implementing the Sept. 13 autonomy agreement.

West Bank.

The fate of the 11,000 said he urged both Israel and Palestimians still in Israeli jails

KHARTOUM (Agencies) -Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir has named a police officer from south Sudan, Major General George Kongor Arop, as second vice-

Gen. Arop, who was governor of Bahrel Ghazal state. south Sudan, joins Zubair Mohammad Saleh in the vicepresidency.

Gen. Bashir, in a ceremony hroadcast live on state-run radio Omdurman Monday night, promulgated another major decree appointing gnvernors for the recently created 26 states of Sudan, which has become a federal republic.

Some of the governors of the former eight states lost their jobs and others changed places. like Khartoum governor Mohammad Osman Mohammad Saeed, who has now been named as governor for the new Sennar state, in central Sudan.

Khartoum state was surpri-

singly given to Badreddin

Taha, who was director gener-

al of the Agricultural Bank of

Sudan, a position which he was

replacements for the two departing ministers, Some outgoing governors, such as Brigadier Al Tayeh Ihrahim Mohammad Khair, who held the governorship of Darfur. could not be ignored, and are expecte to return to Khar-

'Offensive' planned

The government is allegedly massing child soldiers in neighhouring Zaire and the Central African Republic to attack

Sudan gets southern vice-president soumera rebels, relief officials said Monday.

> A major government offensive against the black and mainly Christian rehels. weakened by internal divisions, has driven more than 100,000 southerners towards the Ugandan border. "We have had reports of a

massive military huildup along the border with the Central African Republic, and there are similar reports from Zaire." Michael Semmler of the German relief agency Action Africa in Need told a news conference in the Kenyan capital Nairobi after a two-day visit to rehel-held territory in southern Sudan. Justin Arop Yac of the relief

wing of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), said Khartoum had "bribed local officials" to turn a blind eye to the massing of Sudancse troops in remote. notoriously lawless areas of Zutre and the Central African Republic bordering Sudan.

"Most of the soldiers are just young boys, aged 12 to 15. Mr. Yac told AFP.